

Icy Road Forecast and Alert (IcyRoad): Validation and Refinement Using MDT RWIS data

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Montana Department of Transportation

Project Budget and Duration

- July 1, 2020 – September 31, 2021 (research)
- October, 2021 – March, 31, 2022 (report)

Budget to SpringGem: \$25,900

Pre-MDT IcyRoad

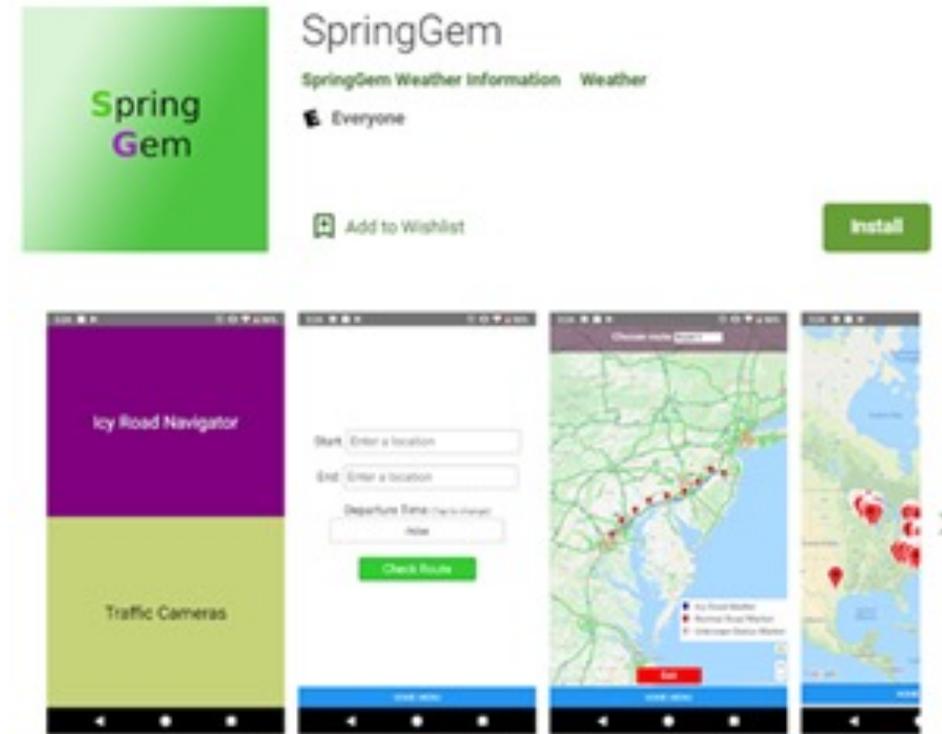
- Funded by Private invest and NSF SBIR Phase 1 significant progress on IcyRoad
- Web app: <https://sg-weather.com/weather/>
- Mobile app:

Google Play: Download

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.springgem>

Apple App Store: Search “SpringGem”

Or scan the QR code From company website

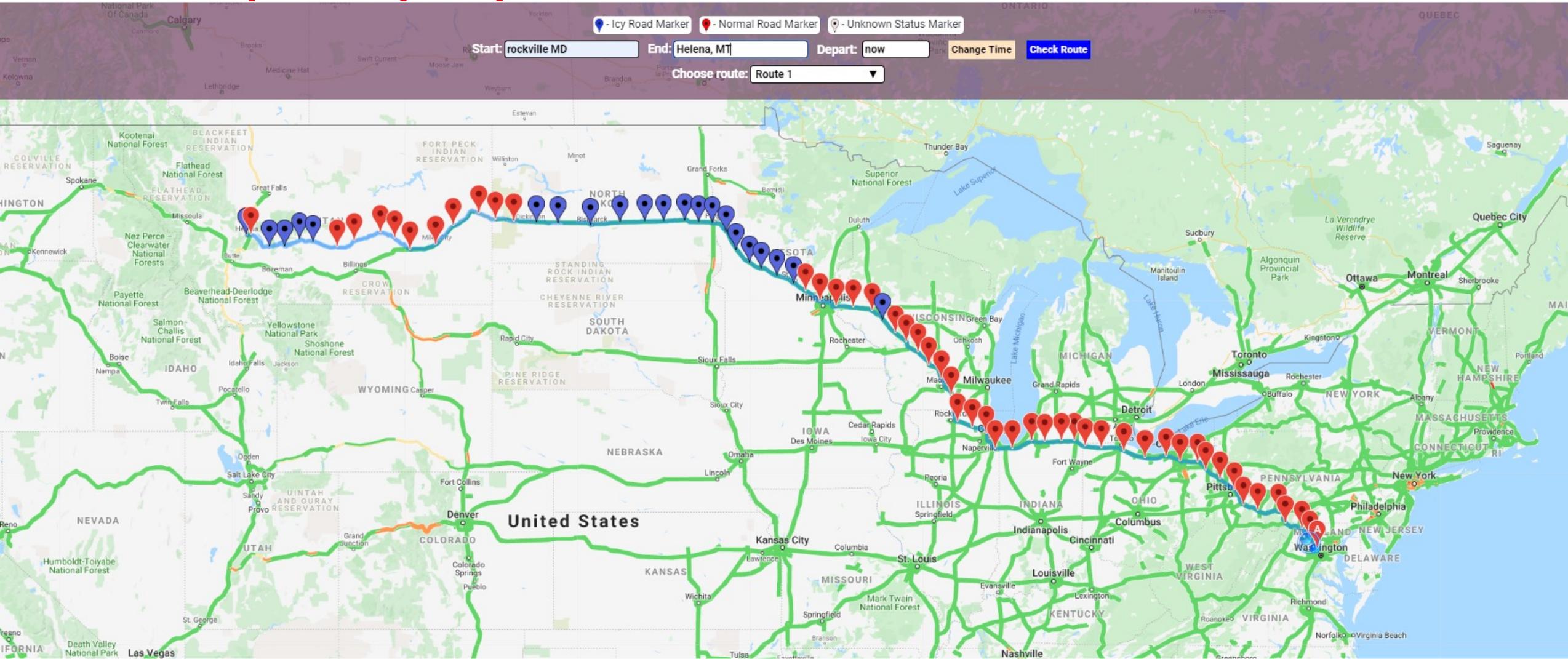


Current Status of IcyRoad

- Revised IcyRoad forecasting algorithm – IcyRoad2->IcyRoad3->IcyRoad3v2 ->IcyRoad3.4
- Developed **IcyBridge** and **IcyCity**, beside **IcyRoad**
- Published new web-app, and mobile app



Speedy IcyRoad Forecast Across US



IcyRoad interactively sends forecast and alert of Icy Road status to users in 20 seconds, 24/7, across US and Canada
24-hr lead time

 - Icy Road Marker  - Normal Road Marker  - Unknown Status Marker

Start:

End:

Depart:

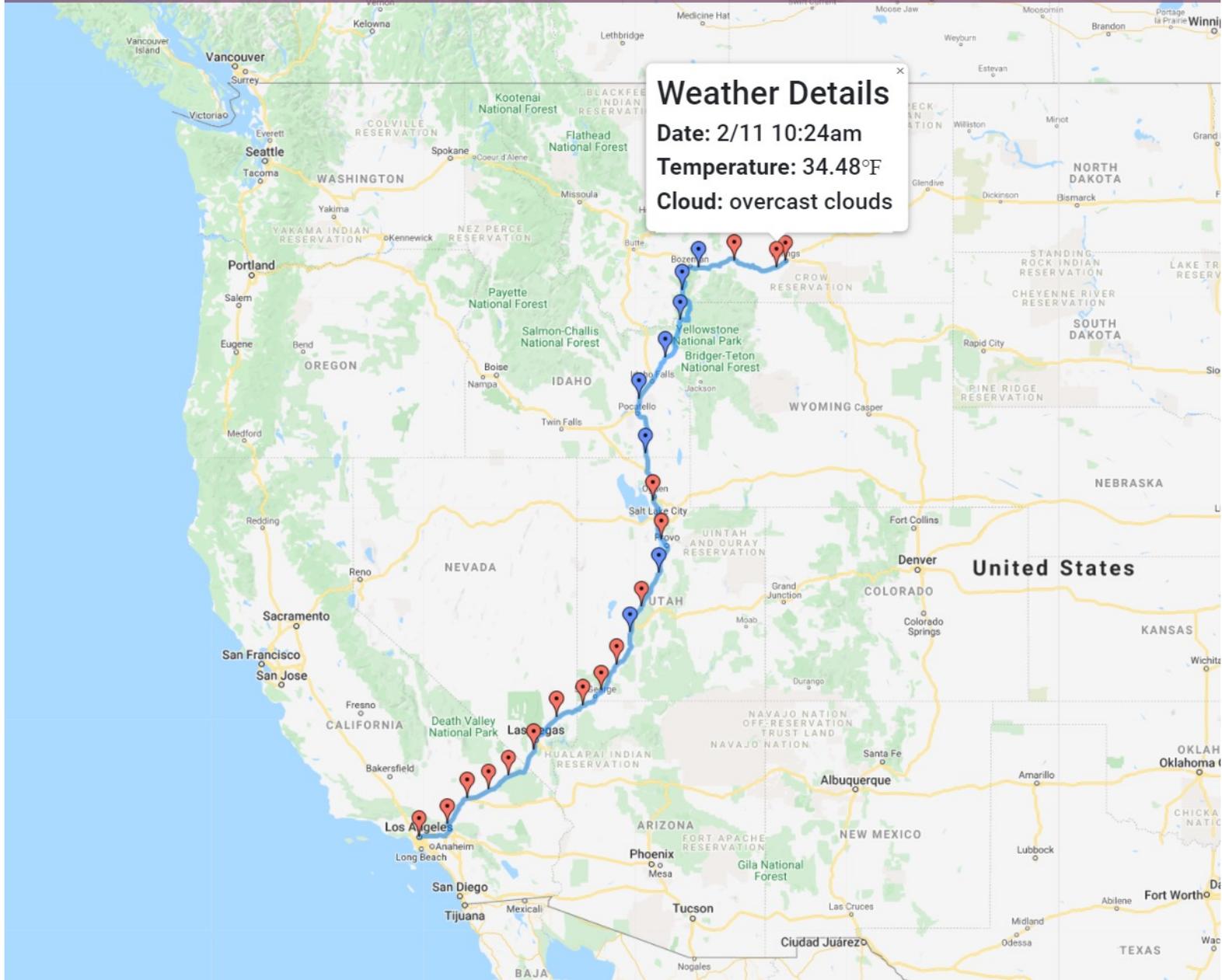
Choose route:

Weather Details

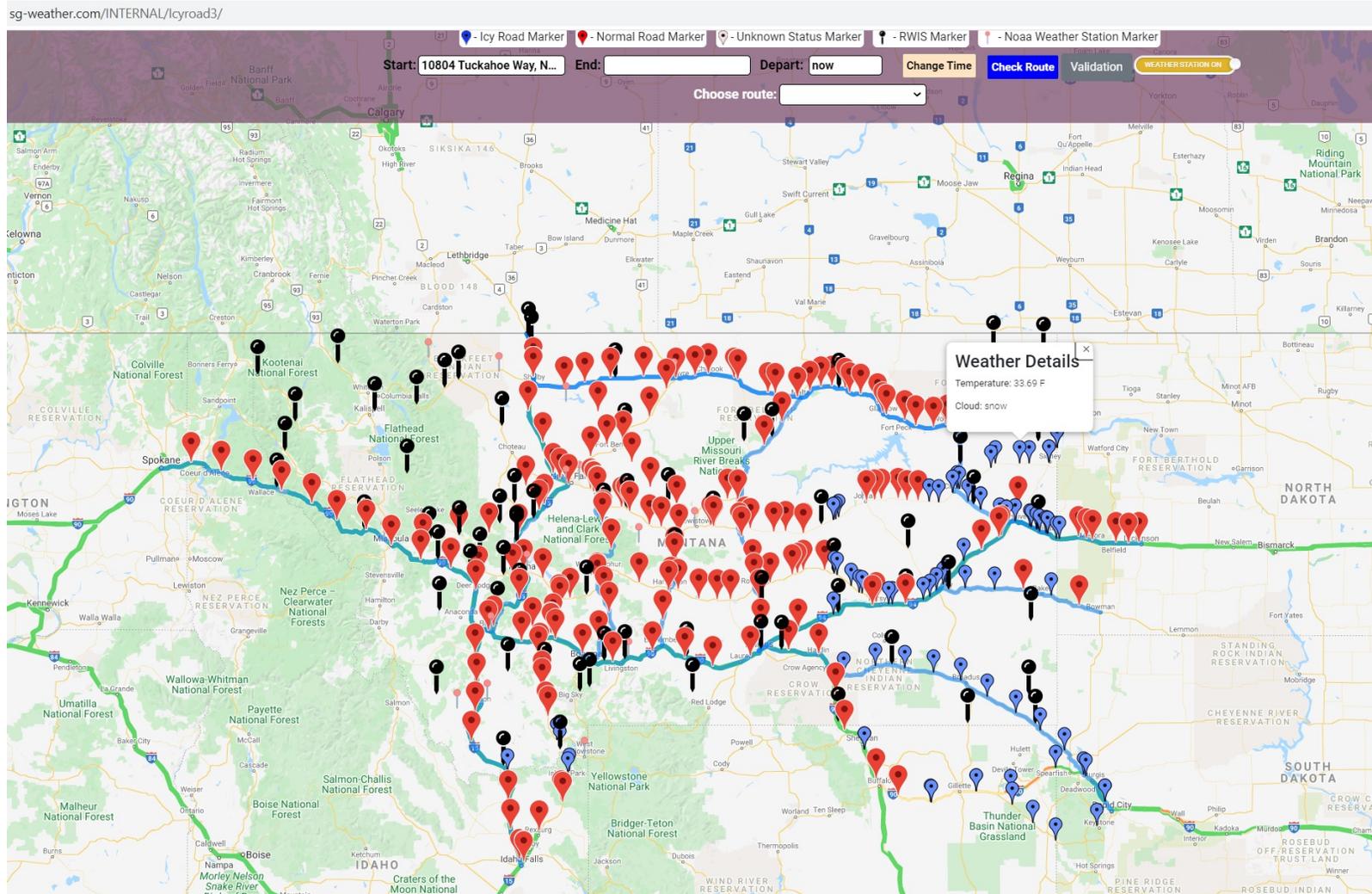
Date: 2/11 10:24am

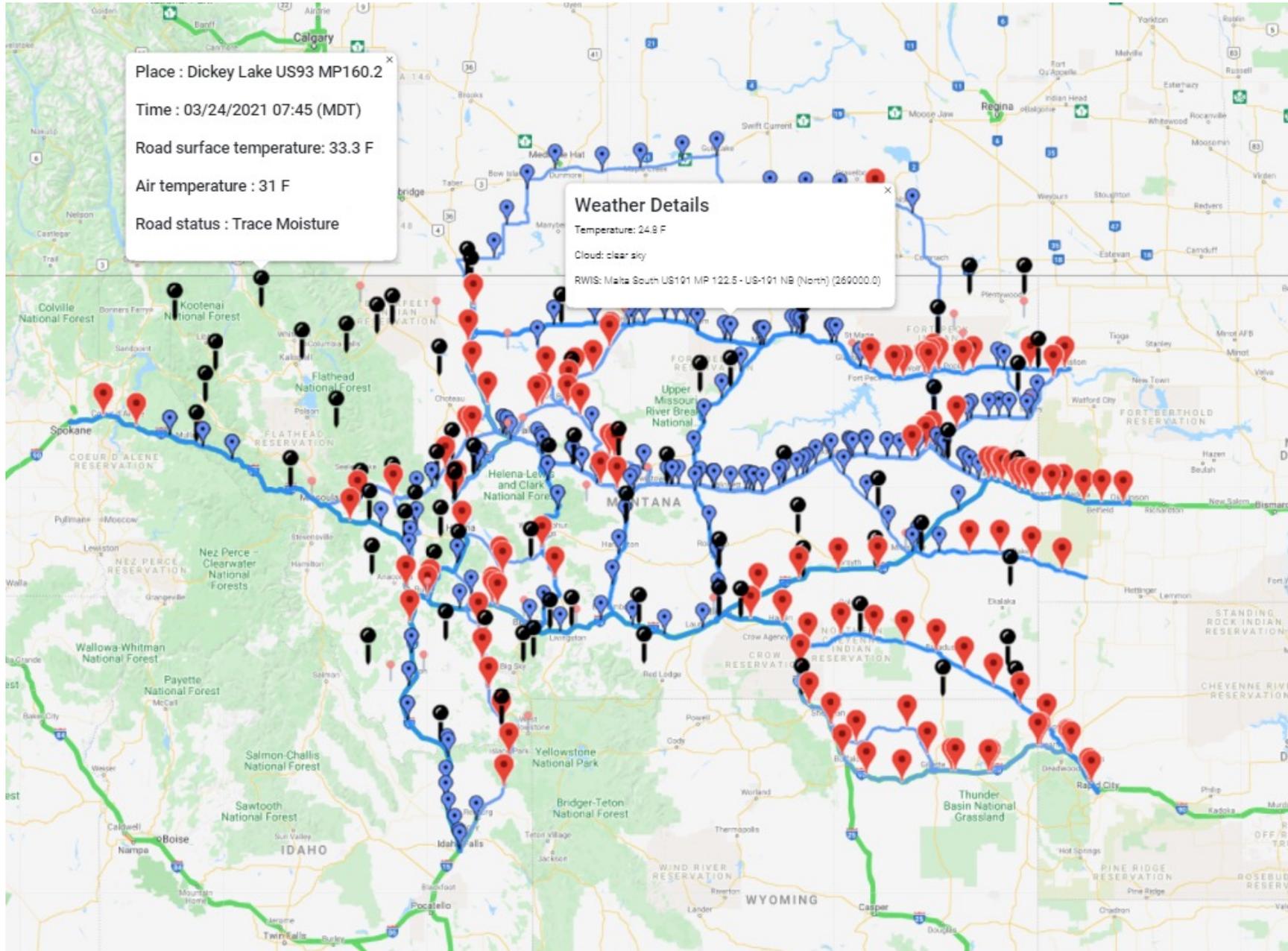
Temperature: 34.48°F

Cloud: overcast clouds



IcyRoad3 for MDT





Validation of IcyRoad Using RWIS sites

- Build online, automatic validation

<https://sg-weather.com/INTERNAL/IcyRoadValidation/>

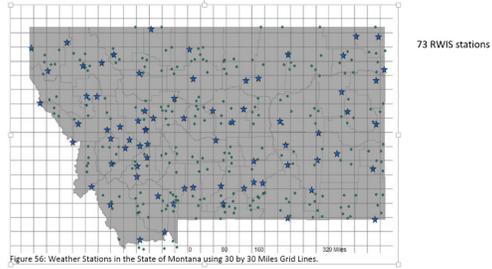
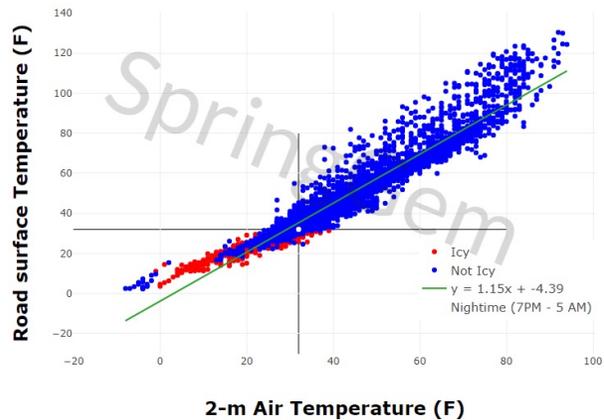


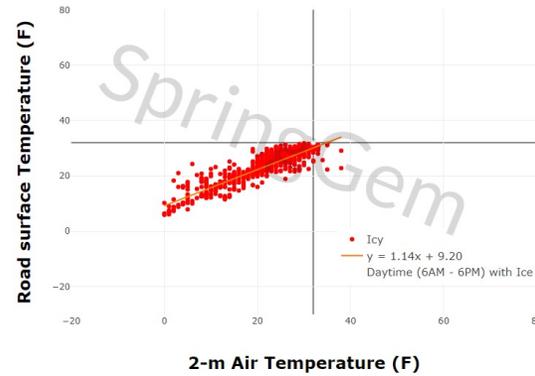
Figure 56: Weather Stations in the State of Montana using the 30 by 30 mile grid lines. The stars refer to existing RWIS stations, while dots refer to other weather

(MDT RWIS report, Ewan and Al-Kaisy, 2017)

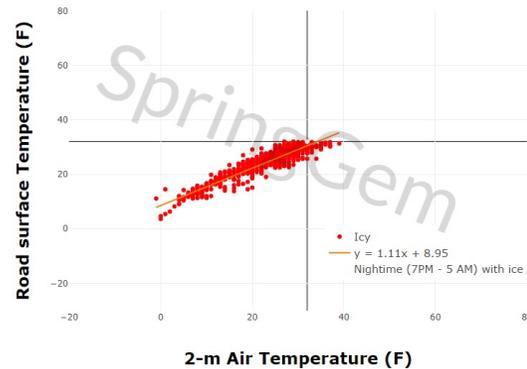
Lookout Pass I-90 MP 0.2 - EB Driving - East



Lookout Pass I-90 MP 0.2 - EB Driving - East



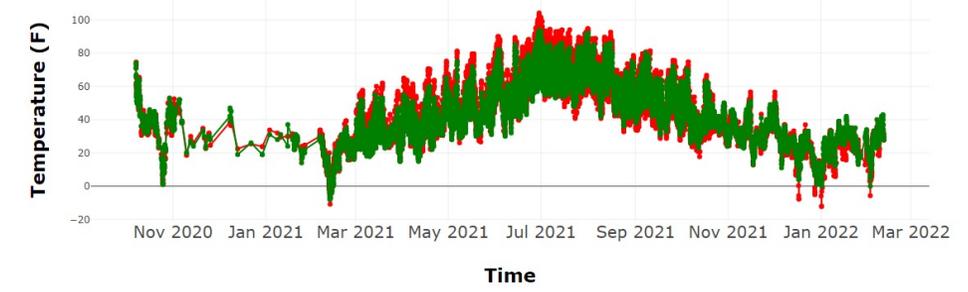
Lookout Pass I-90 MP 0.2 - EB Driving - East



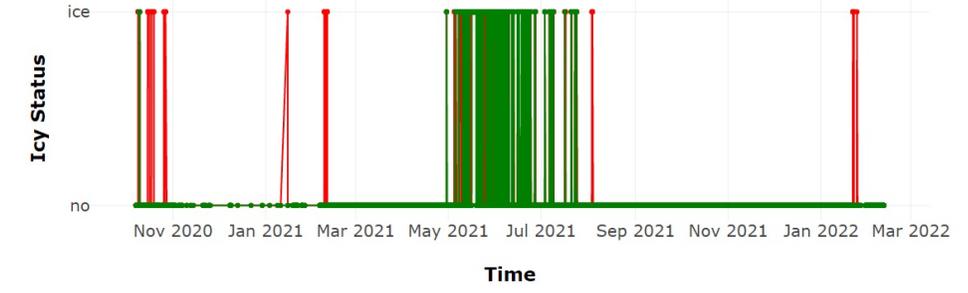
Select Place: Lookout Pass I-90 MP 0.2 - EB Driving - East(150000.1) [Download CSV File](#)



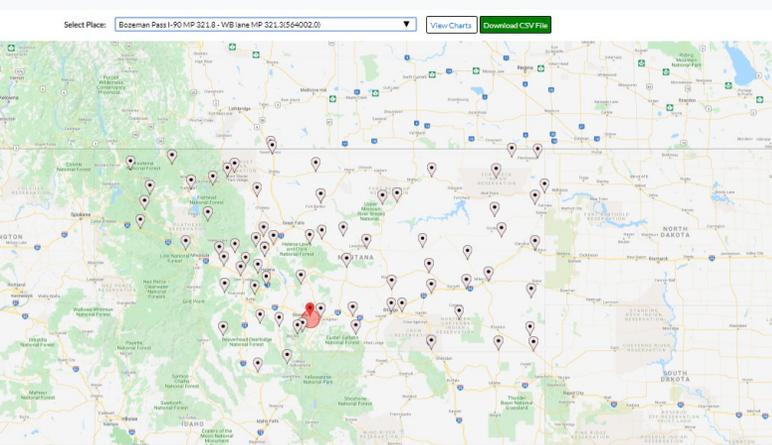
Temperature Chart — Forecasted Temperature — Observed Temperature



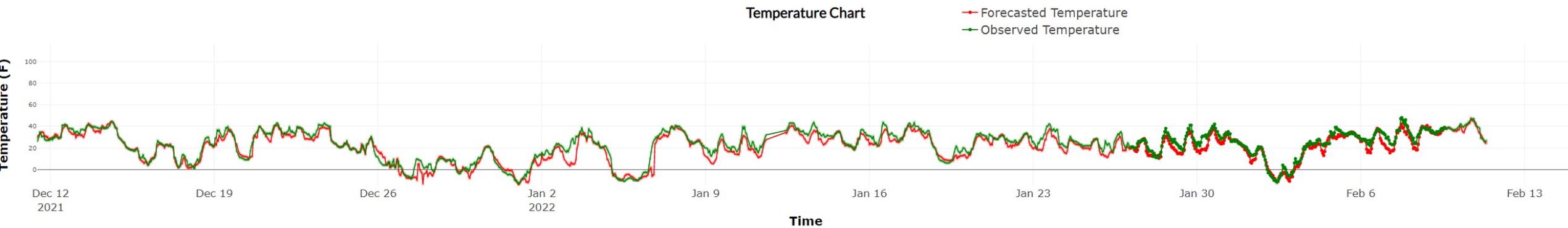
Ice Status Chart — Forecasted Ice Status — Observed Ice Status



Similar to Figure 4 in Task 1 Report



Example: Bozeman air temperature, IcyRoad 3 forecast vs RWIS
 (results directly available at the online automated data analysis tool)



Bozeman IcyRoad3 forecast

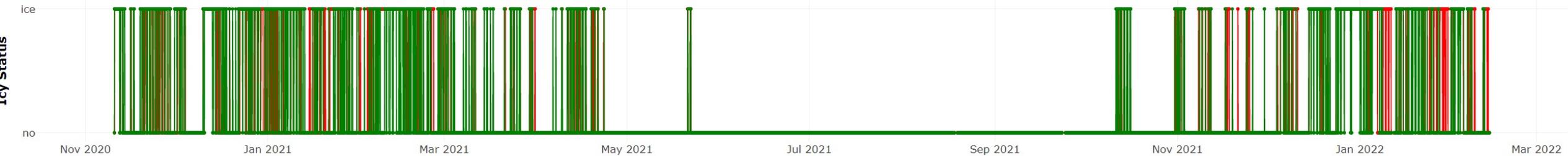


Ice Status Chart

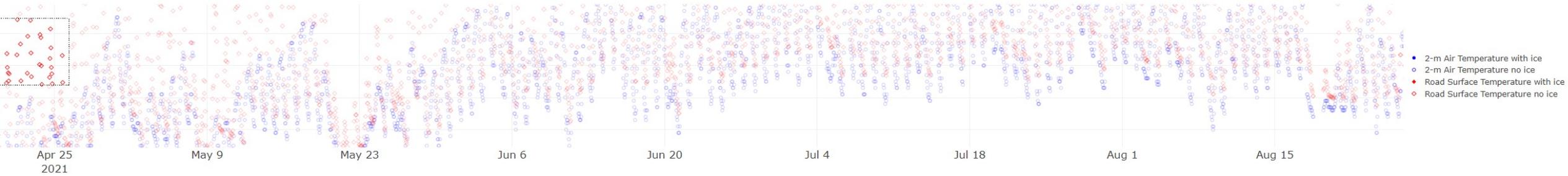
Forecasted Ice Status
Observed Ice Status

Ice Status Chart

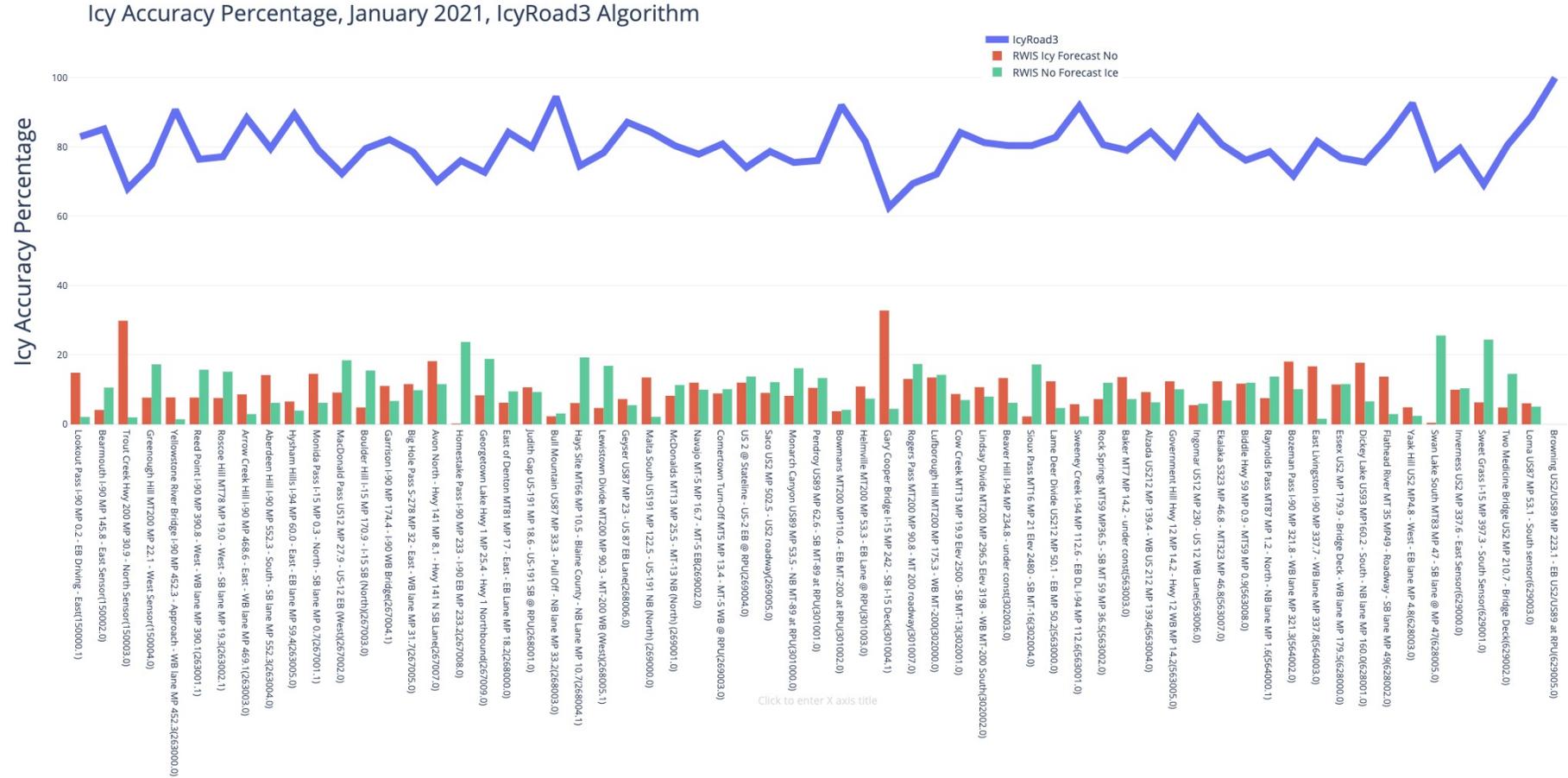
Forecasted Ice Status
Observed Ice Status



Bozeman Pass I-90 MP 321.8 - WB lane MP 321.

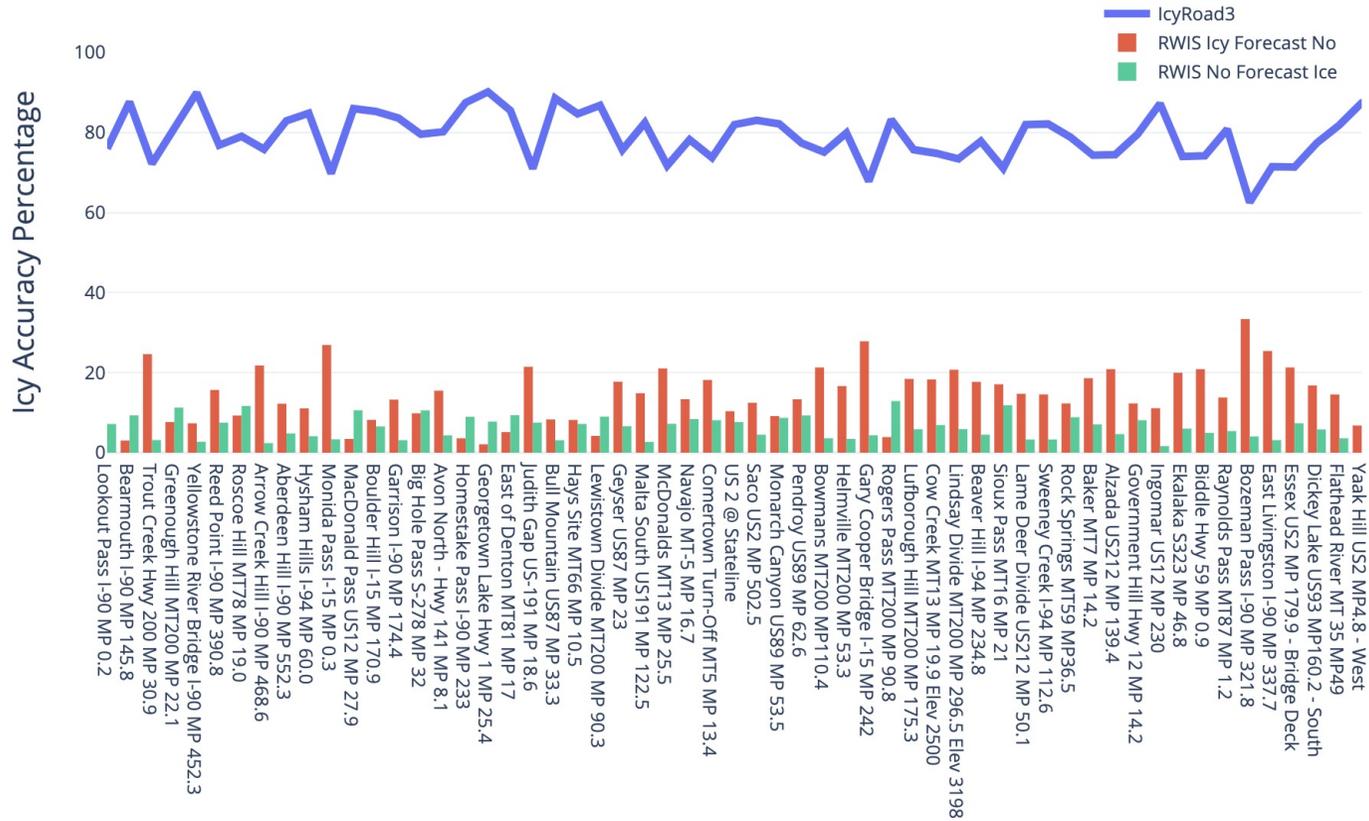


Validation, January 2021



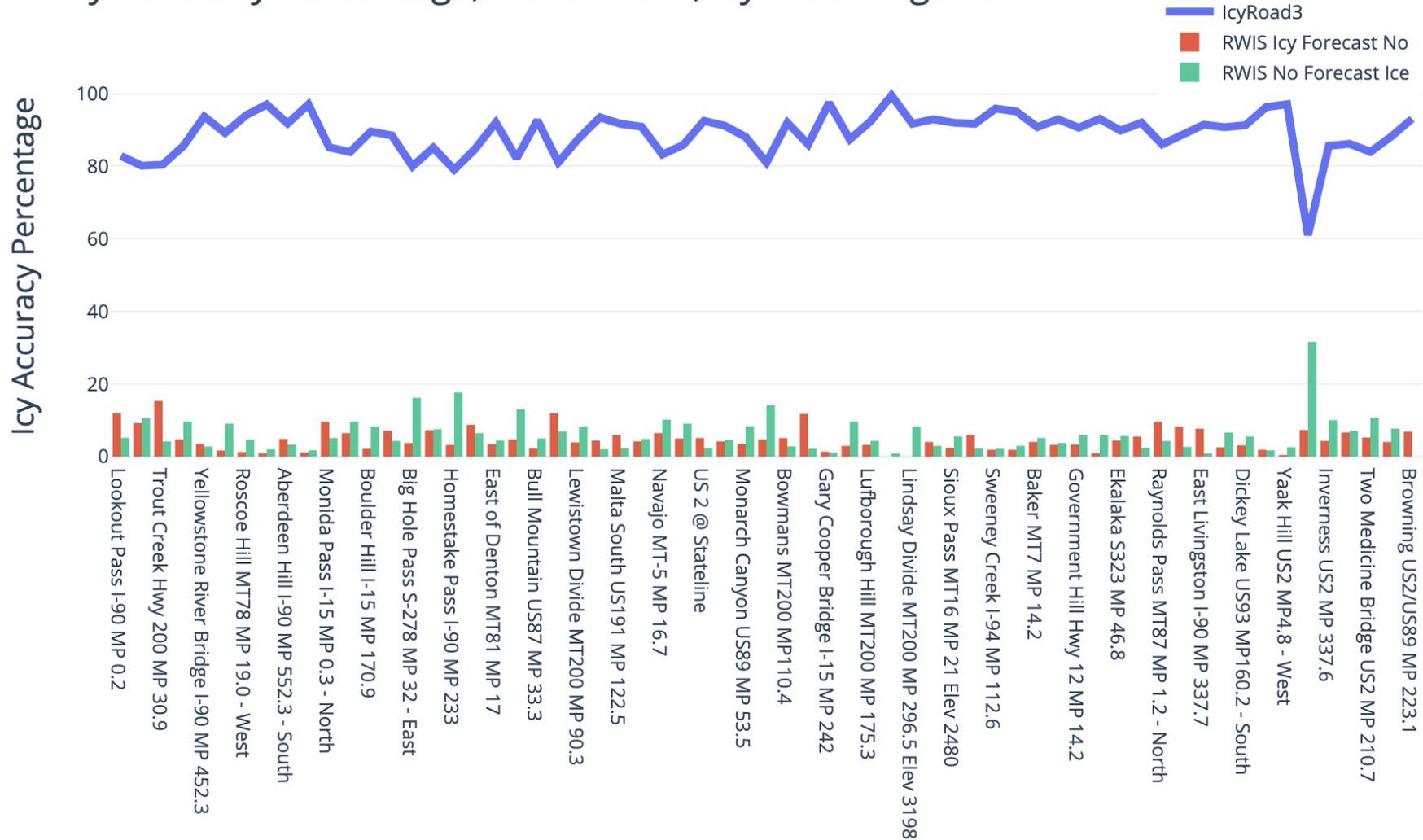
Validation, February 2021

Icy Accuracy Percentage, February 2021, IcyRoad3 Algorithm



Validation March 2021

Icy Accuracy Percentage, March 2021, IcyRoad3 Algorithm



Scientific Understanding on Road Ice Formation

- Soil temperature vary less than pavement and air temperatures
- Soil temperature change ahs a lag phase delay (due to heat transfer to soil layer takes time)

Conclusion: Soil temperature is NOT a good index for ice formation

Pavement temperature higher than air temperature at some time, lower than it at another time

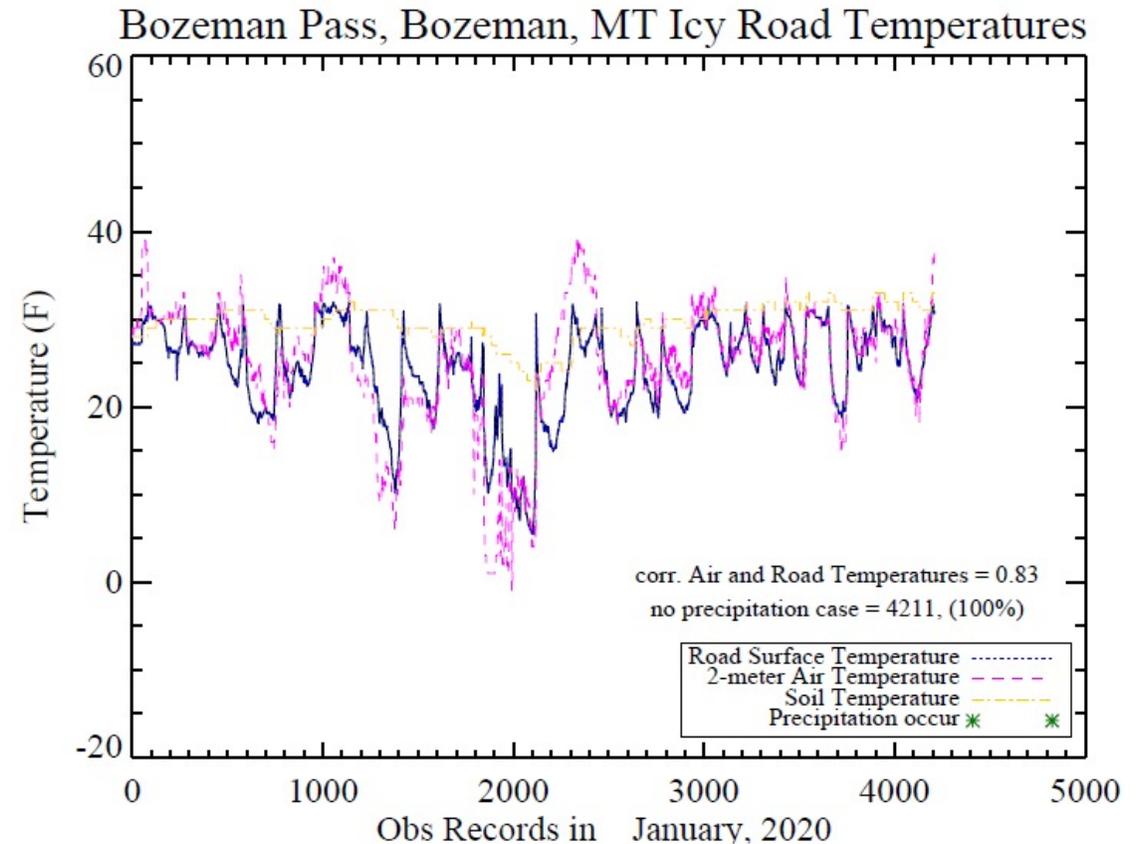


Figure 1 in Task 1 report

Bozeman (cont.)

- Pavement temperature and air temperature relations

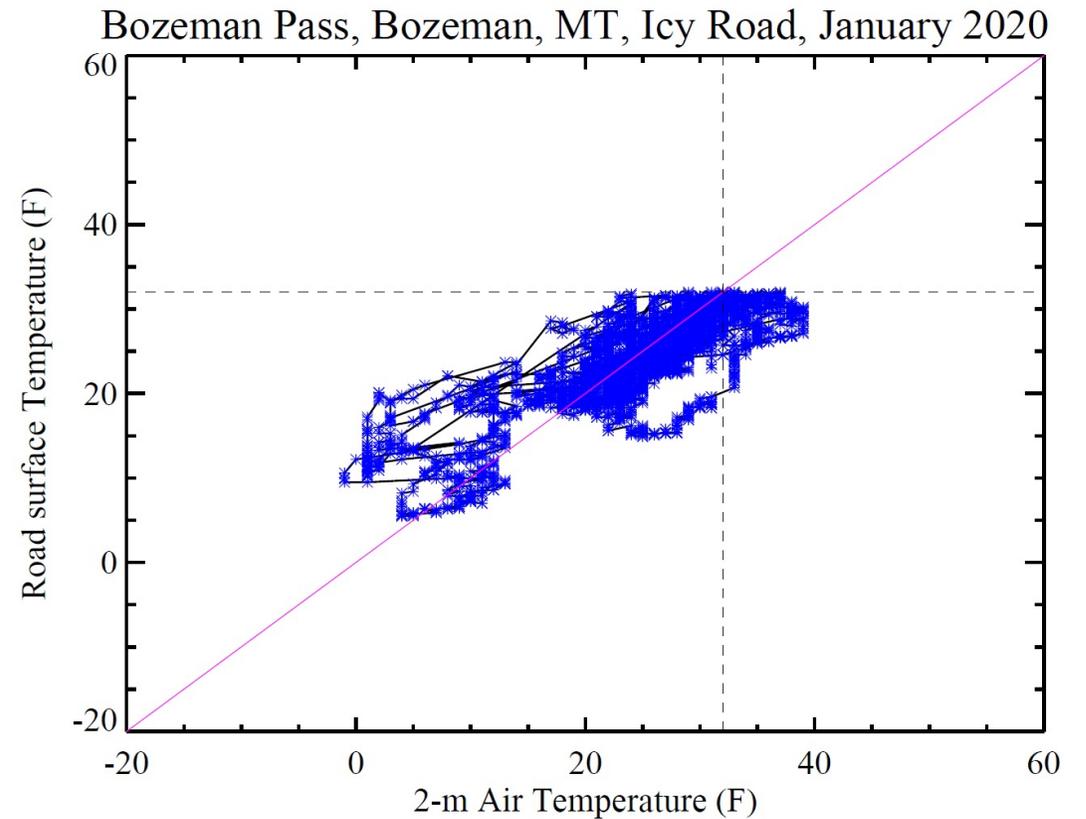


Figure 2 in Task 1 Report

MacDonald Pass, Butte (elevation above 1800 m)

- The road at this site was icy for >90% of days in January, 2020
- Snowfall was also monitored in most of the days there (77%), partly due to convection induced by orographic lifting and partly due to wind-blown snow from nearby regions being measured by the RWIS sensor
- Local calibration is needed in order to forecast road temperature correctly from Tair for a given region, since local elevation, cloud cover, and geographic conditions directly affect road/air temperature interactions

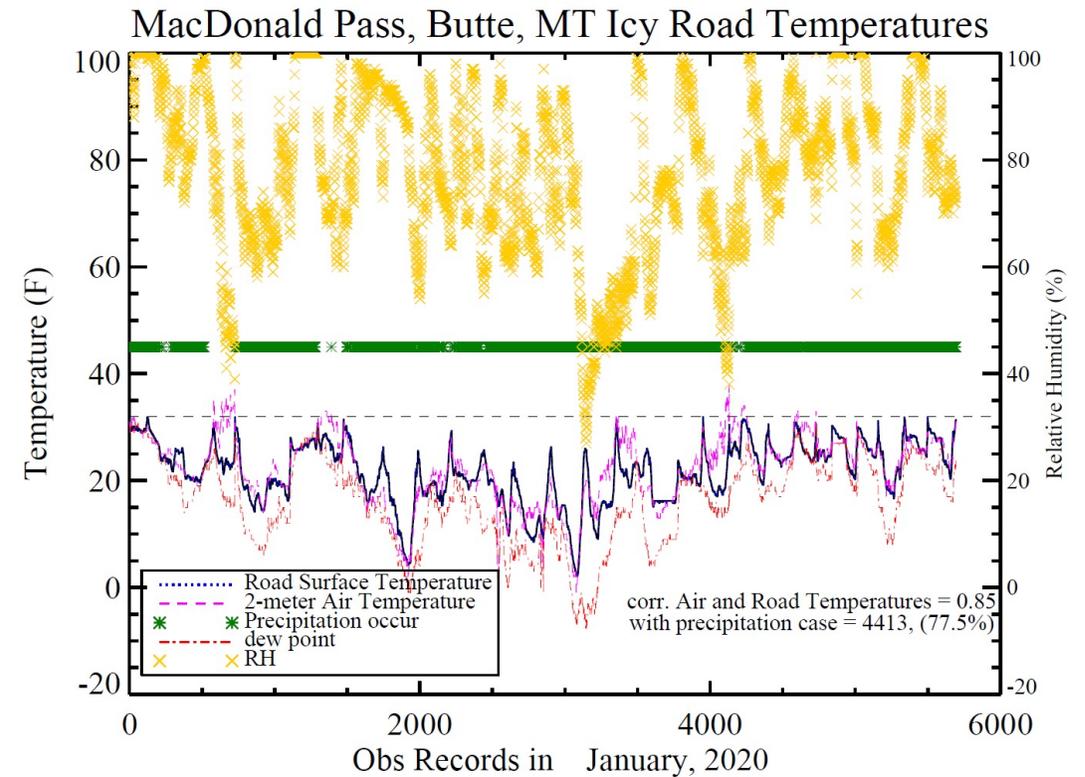


Figure 3 in Task 1 Report

Bridge – Yellowstone River Bridge

- Ice vs no ice has evident differences
- Daytime vs nighttime
- Regression gives first order relation between air and road pavement temperatures

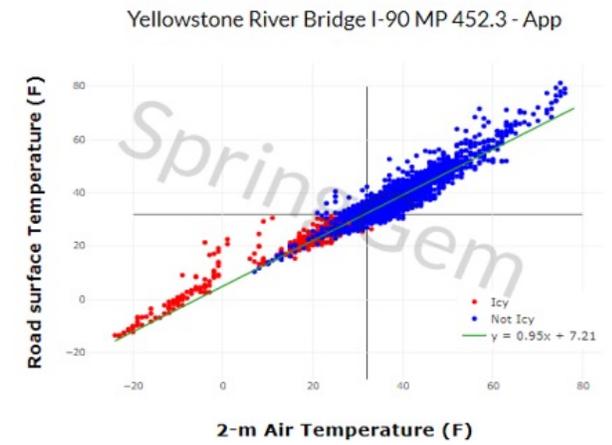
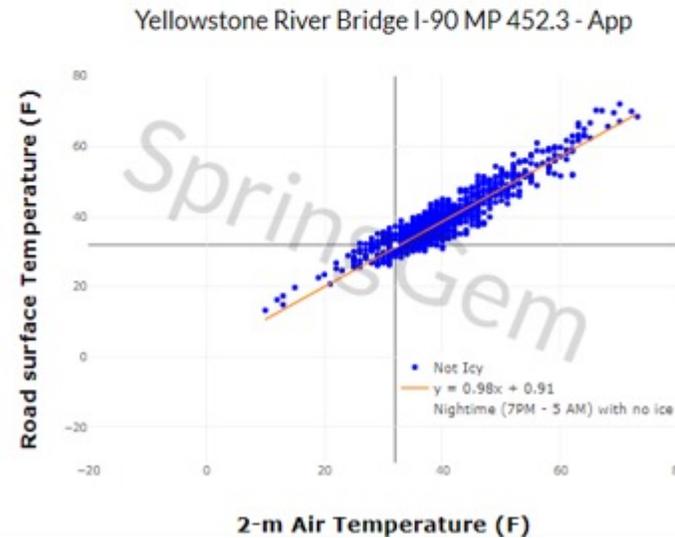
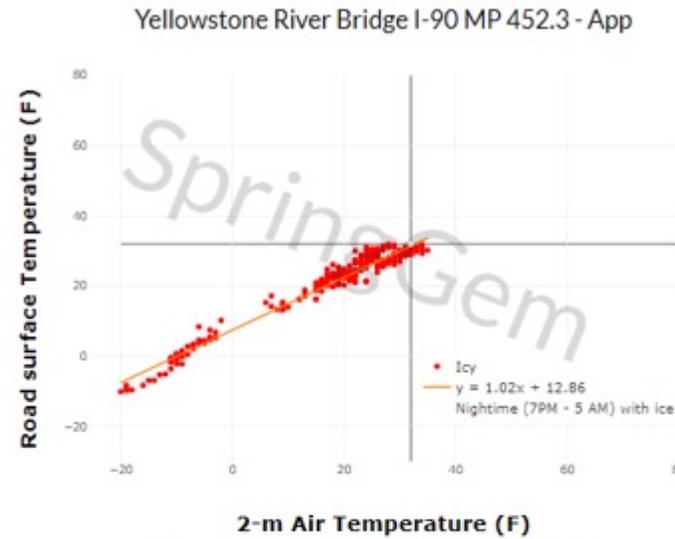


Figure 15. The 2-meter air temperature and road skin temperature relationships for November 1, 2020 – to March 31, 2021, for Yellowstone Bridge (263000.0). The blue dot represent no-ice time, and the red dot represents for icy.

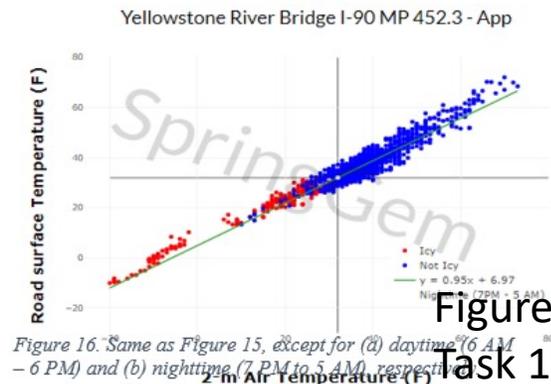
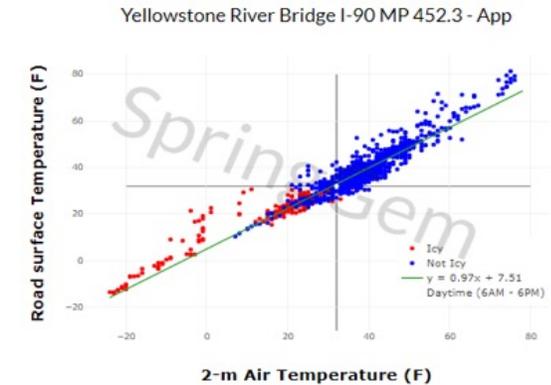
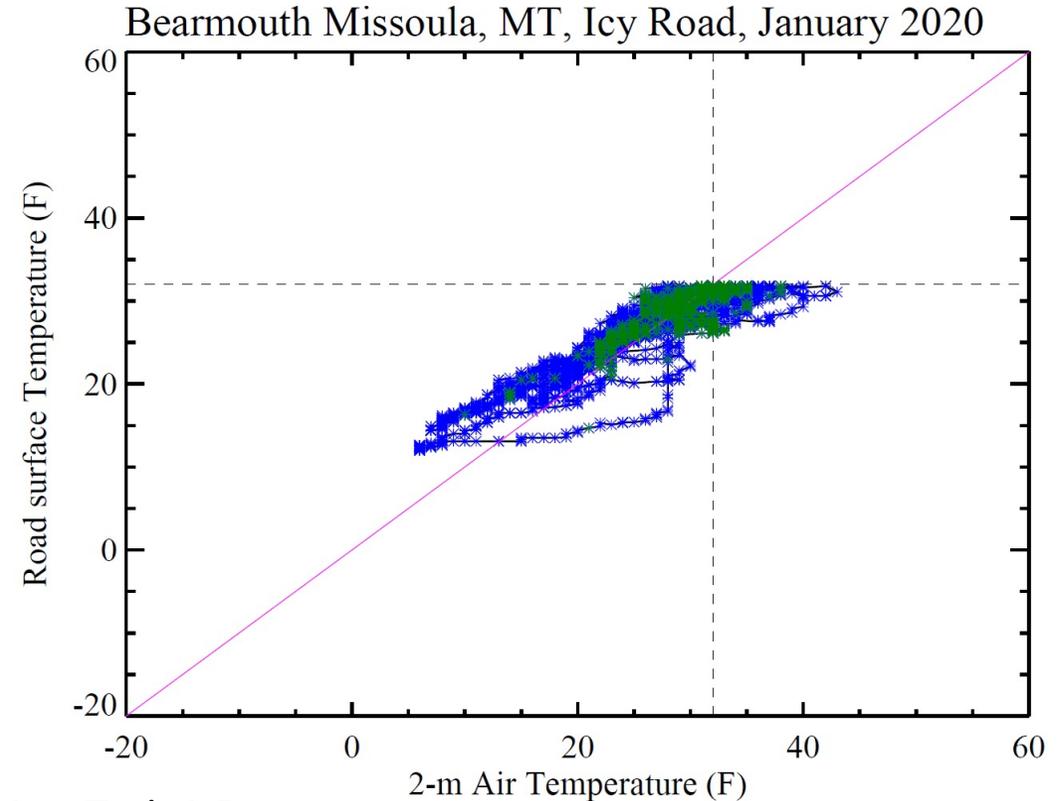
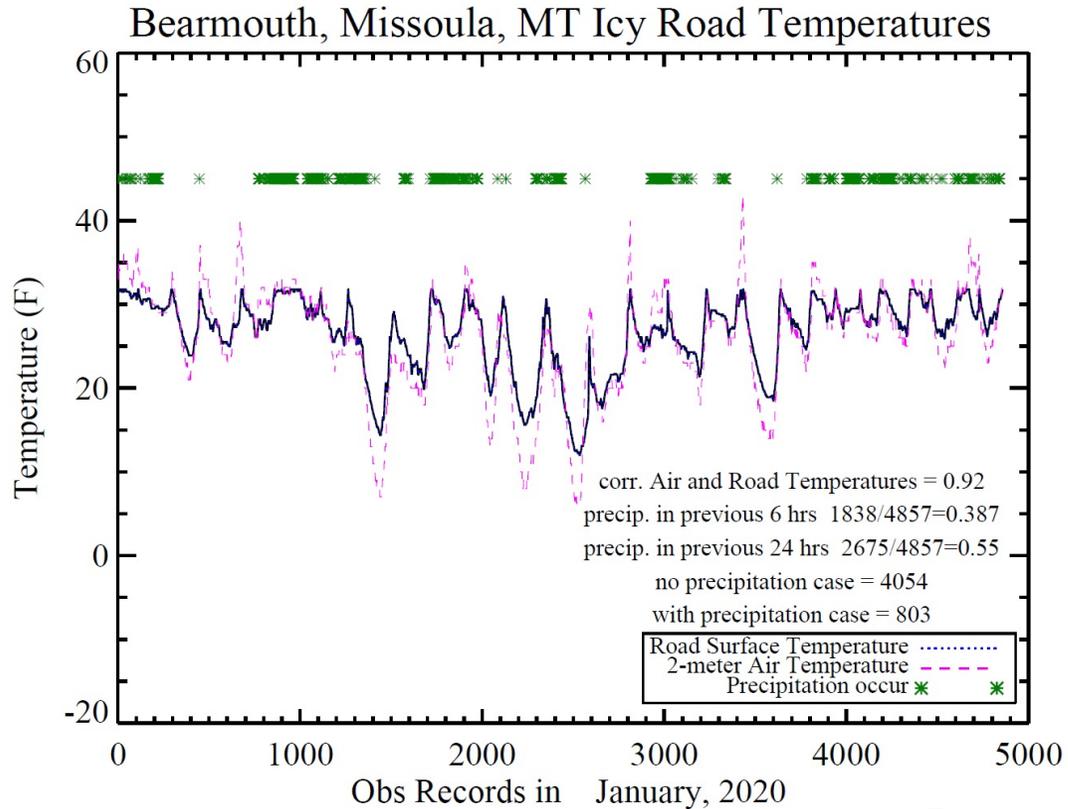


Figure 16. Same as Figure 15, except for (a) daytime (6 AM - 6 PM) and (b) nighttime (7 PM to 5 AM), respectively.

Figure 17 in Task 1 Report

Figures 15 and 16 in Task 1 Report

Bearmouth, Missoula (1189 m elevation)



Figures 10 and 11 in Task 1 Report

The road temperature and 2-meter air temperature correlation coefficient was 0.92.

Air temperature can be much higher than pavement temperature during the daytime, partly due to the fact that ice-covered road surfaces do not heat up quickly. Nevertheless, it can also be lower than the latter.

When roads were icy, the skin temperatures were always below 32°F (Fig. 11). Nevertheless, 2-meter surface air temperature could be above 32°F.

Model Forecast Uncertainty

- All model forecast has uncertainty, due to limited understanding on ice formation physical processes
- The longer the lead time, the less accurate the model forecast
- Assimilate ground observations with model forecast can improve forecast accuracy to an encouraging degree (icyroad3 80%)

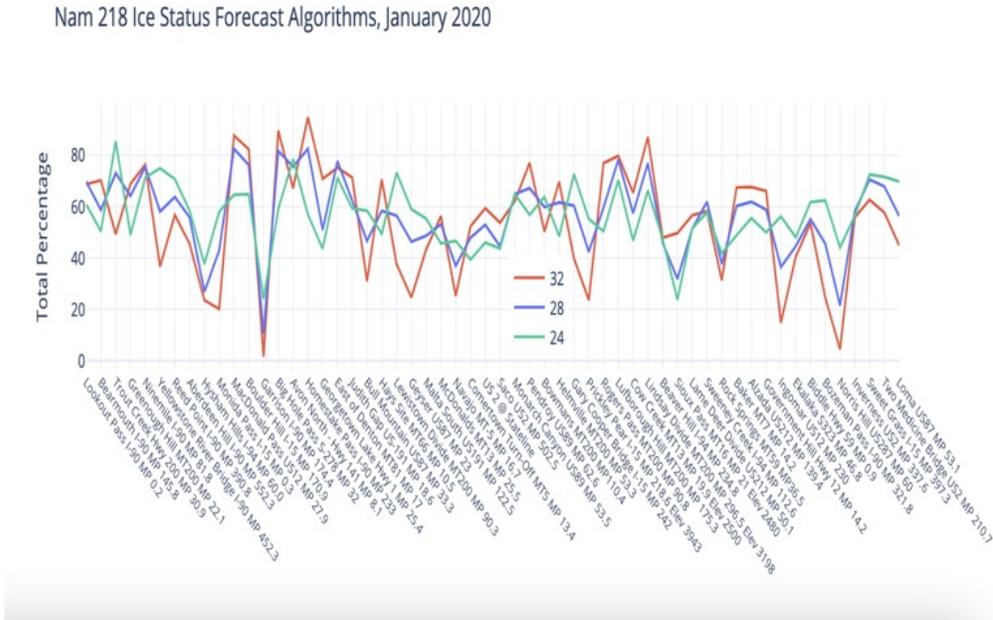


Figure 8: NAM-IcyRoad2 accuracy for road ice status forecast in January 2020 at RWIS sites. X-axis is the RWIS site names and y-axis is total accuracy percentage for ice status forecast. 32, 28, and 24 represent surface temperature thresholds at 32°F, 28°F, and 24°F, respectively.

Figure 8 of Task 1 Report

Elevation Impact on Model Forecast Accuracy

- a negative correlation coefficient of -0.25 between RWIS site elevation and icy status forecast for the site.
- Although this negative coefficient is not statistically significant, elevation is still one of the secondary factors for ice formation on roadways.

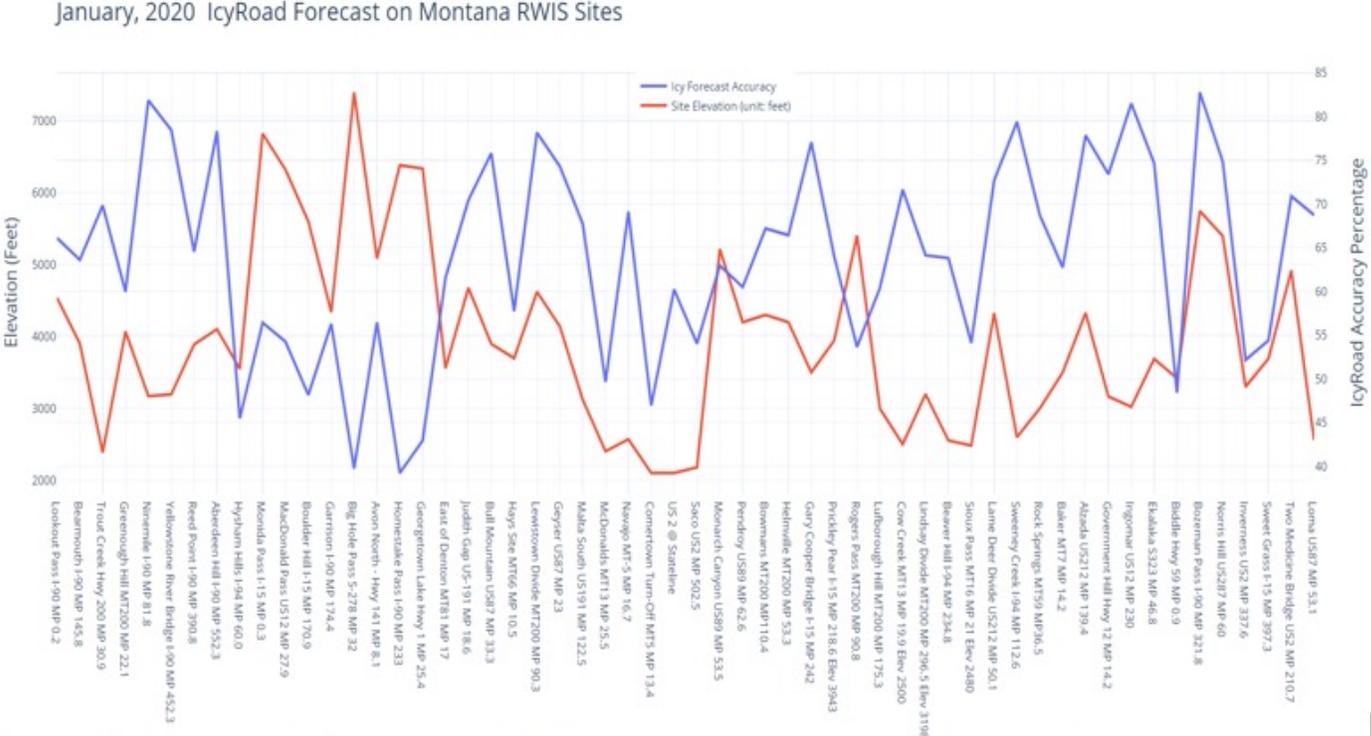


Figure 12. Elevation (unit: feet, blue line) for each RWIS site and Ice Accuracy Percentage (red line) for January, 2020 at temperature threshold $t=24^{\circ}\text{F}$. IcyRoad2 algorithm was examined in this Figure.

IcyRoad3

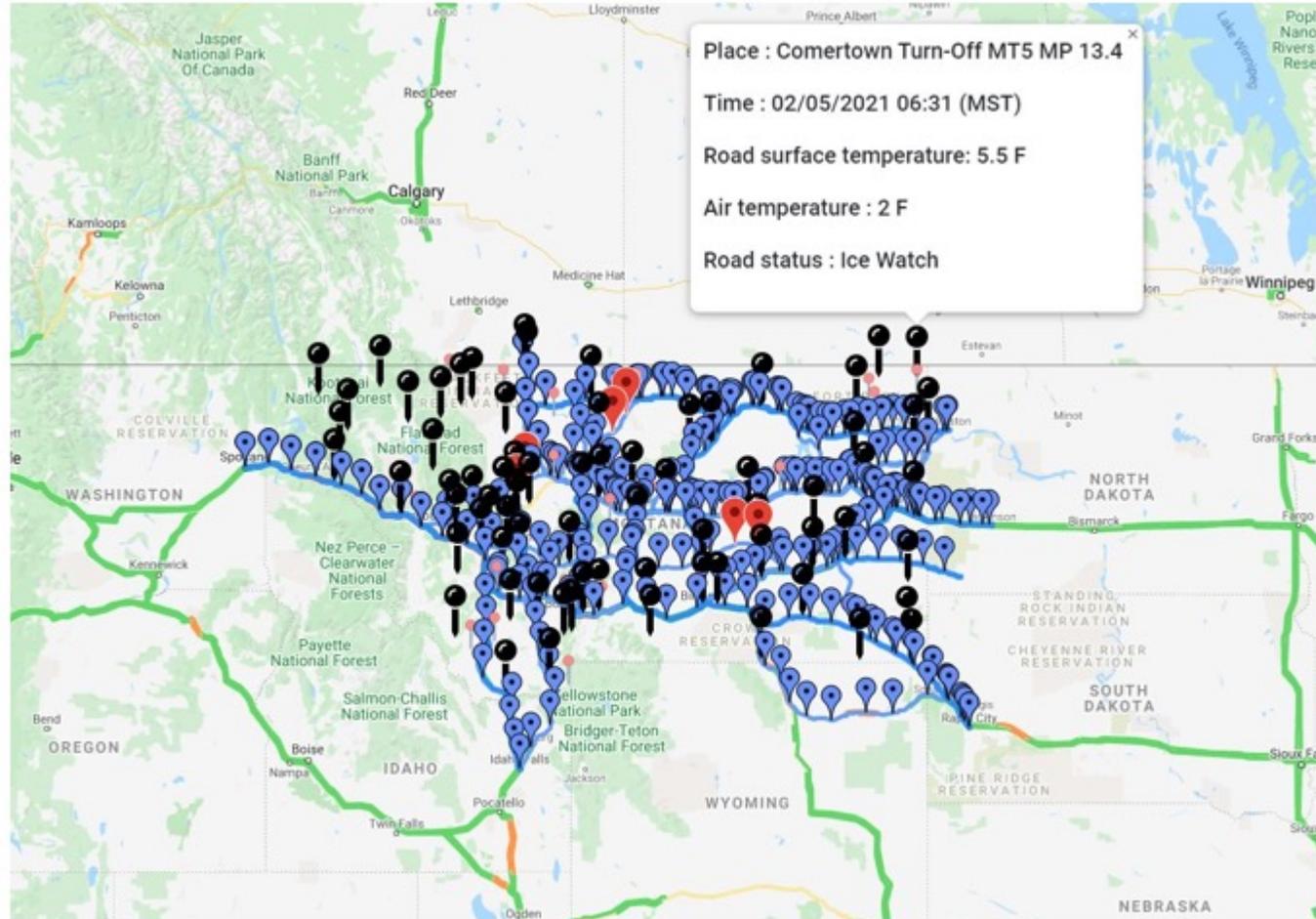
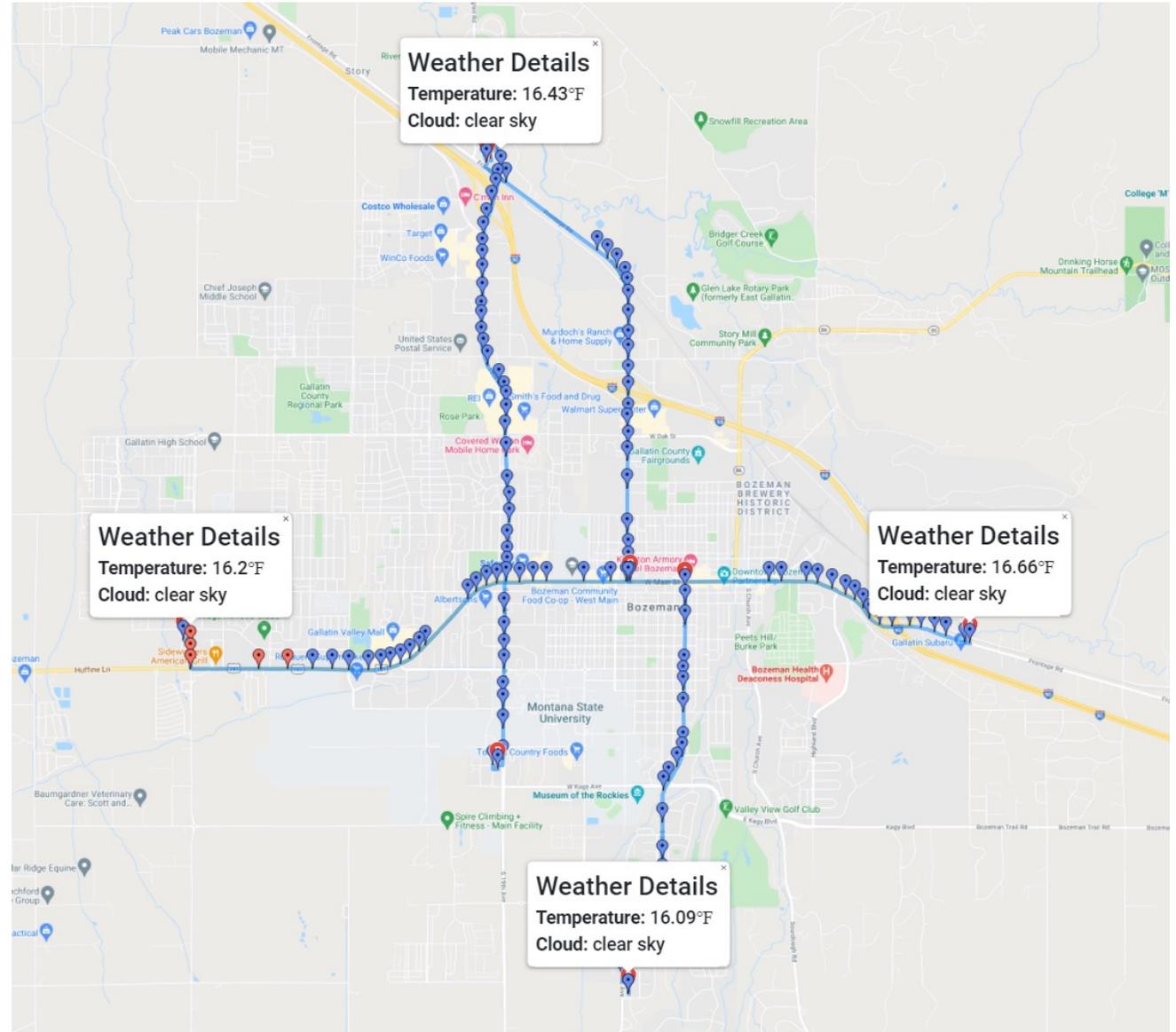


Figure 19. Sample of IcyRoad3 for state Montana highway ice status forecast for February 5, 2021. The blue marker is icy, the red marker is no ice, the black marker is RWIS sites location. Clicking RWIS sites shows observations. The small, pink pins are weather station locations and observations.

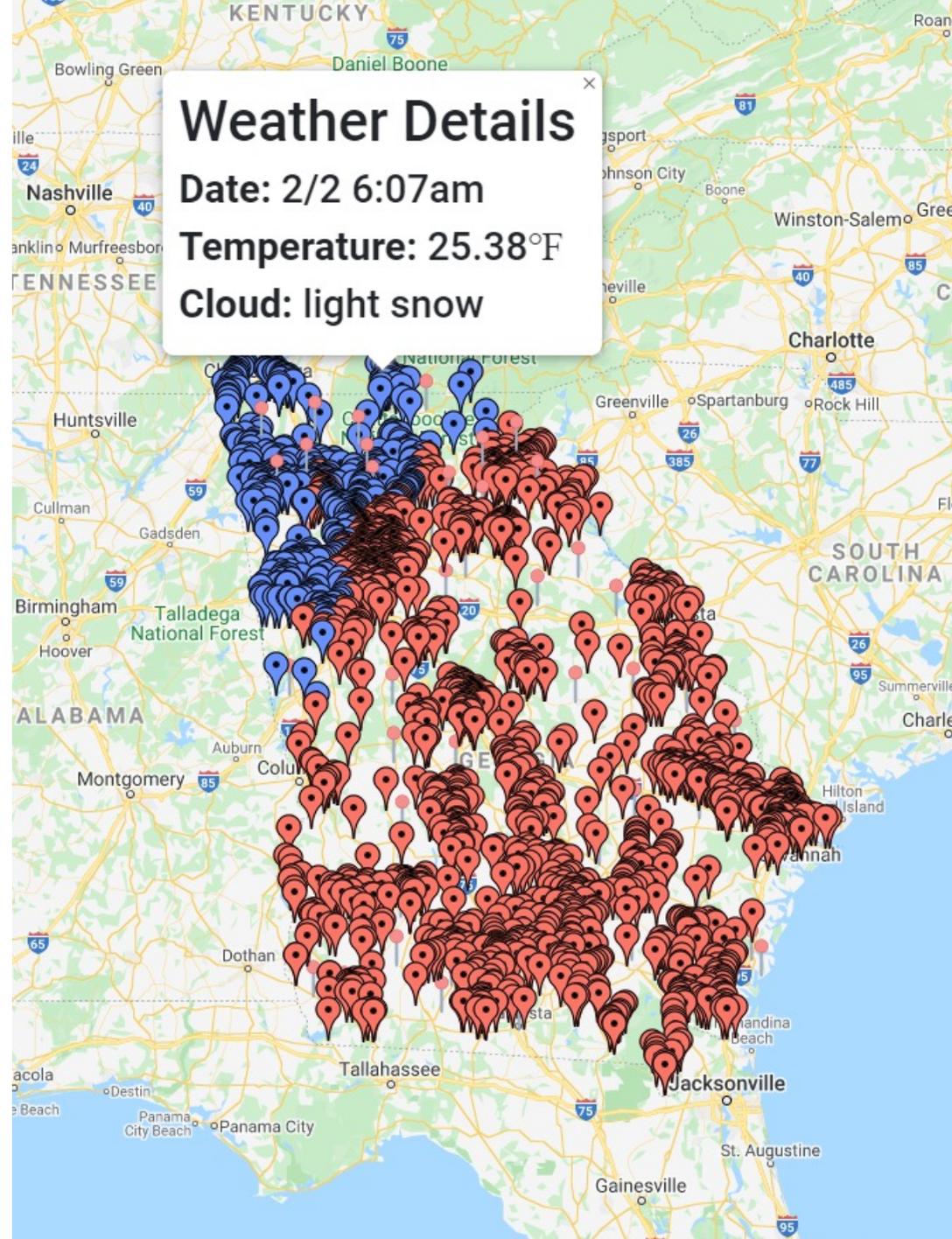
IcyCity

Funded by SringGem other project



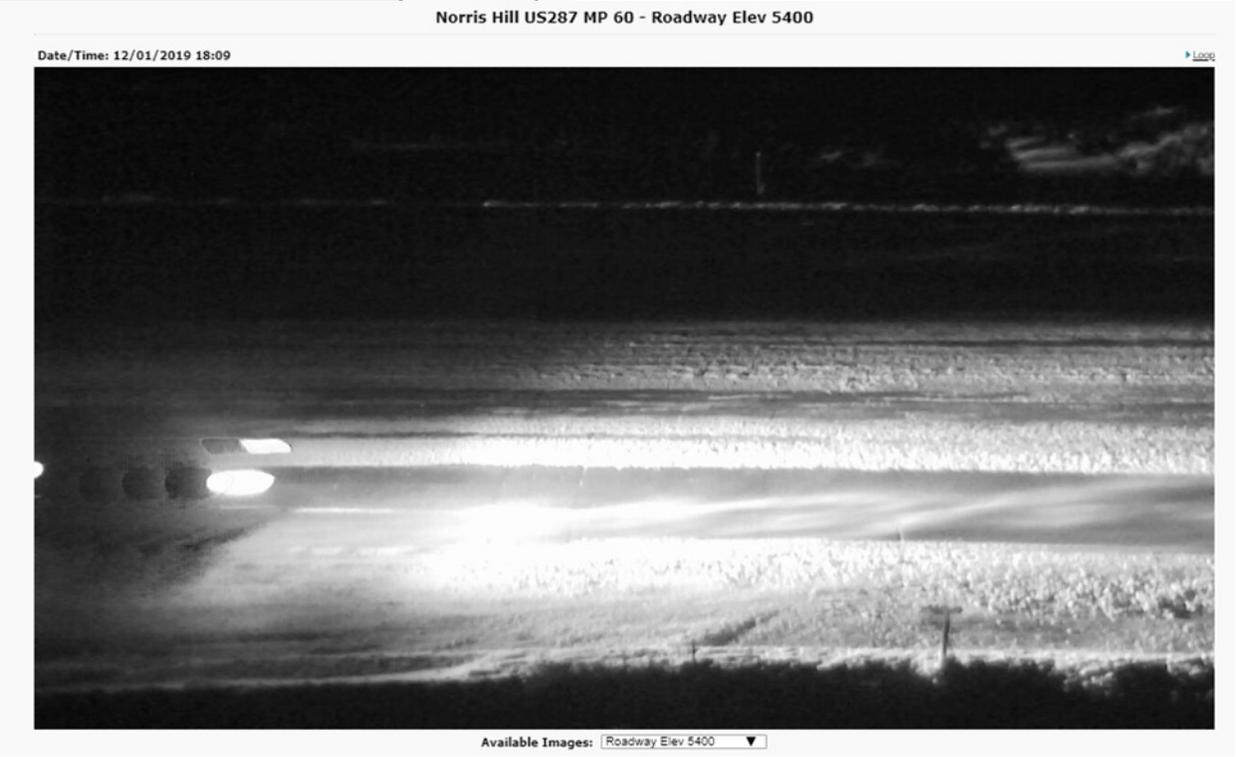
IcyBridge

Funded by SringGem other project



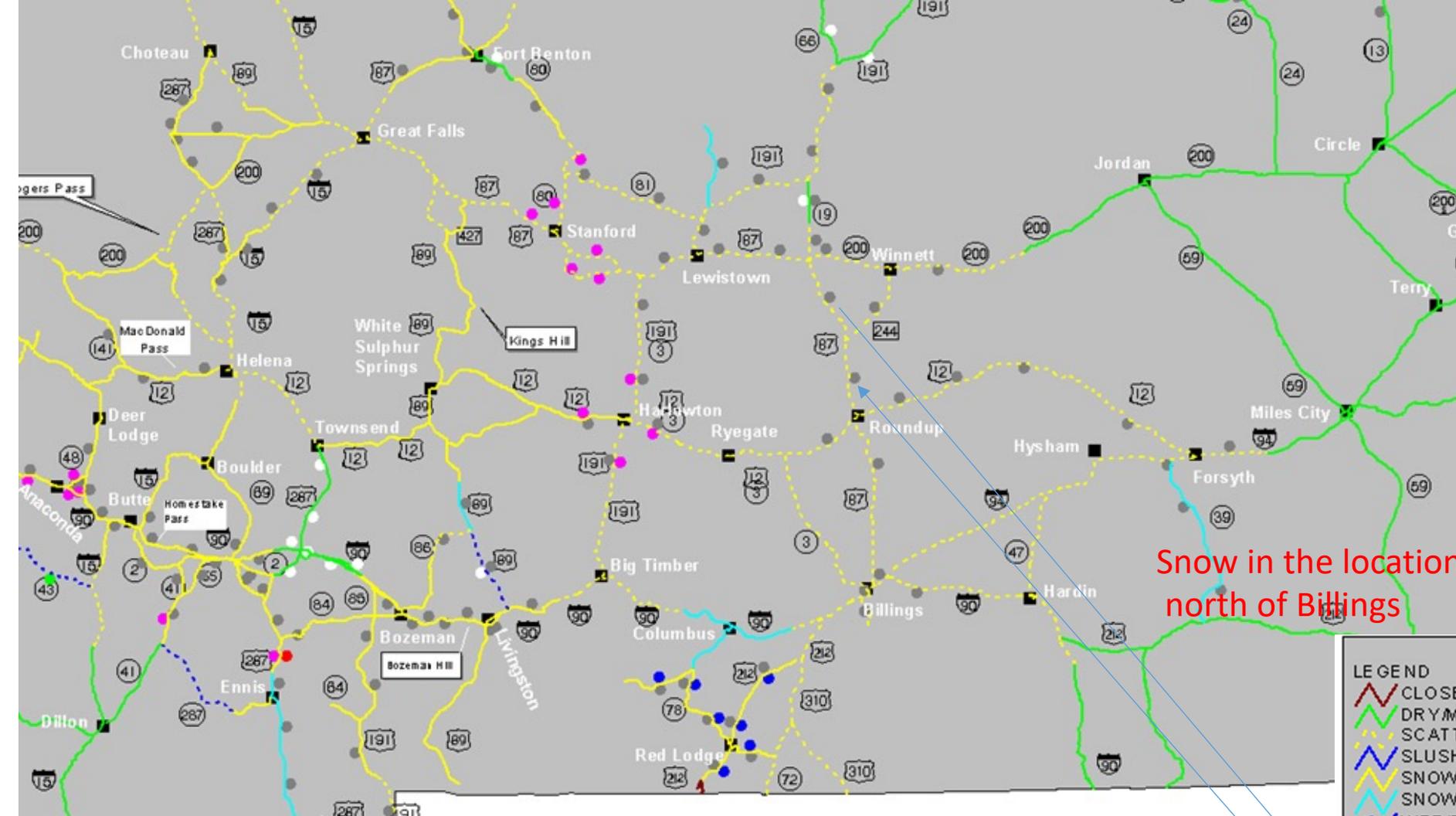
RWIS site observation is not always correct

Bozeman (564000) Site Summary Page (Selected surface sensor may change based on conditions)									
Current Time: 12/01/2019 18:03 MST									
Status	Sfc	Sub	Air	RH	Dew	BaroPs	Precip	Intens	Rat
Ice Warning	Bozeman Pass I-90 MP 321.8 - WB lane MP 321.3 (564002.0)							12/01/2019 17:57 (MST)	
	24.3F	25F	23F	79%	18F	-	None	None	-
Error	Deep Creek US-12 MP 23.5 - NB MP 60.0 (564005.0)							12/01/	
	-	25F	24F	58%	12F	-	None	None	0.0 i
Ice Watch	East Livingston I-90 MP 337.7 - WB lane MP 337.8 (564003.0)							12/01/	
	28.4F	-	34F	48%	16F	-	None	None	-
Error	Karst US191 MP 55.3 - sensor failure (564001.0)							12/01/	
	-	28F	29F	53%	14F	-	None	None	-
-	Livingston Wind - I-90 MP 331.7 Elev 5401 (564006)							12/01/	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	Other	Other	-
Dry	Norris Hill US287 MP 60 - North - NB lane MP 60.4 (564004.0)							12/01/	
	23.2F	22F	27F	62%	16F	-	None	None	-
Ice Warning	Raynolds Pass MT87 MP 1.2 - North - NB lane MP 1.6 (564000.1)							12/01/	
	21.4F	23F	23F	59%	10F	-	None	None	-



Available Images: Roadway Elev 5400

Winter Road Report by MT



Snow in the location north of Billings

LEGEND

- CLOSED FOR SEASON
- DRY/MOSTLY DRY
- SCATTERED SNOW AND ICE
- SLUSH/SCATTERED SLUSH
- SNOW AND ICE
- SNOWCOVER
- WET/SCATTERED WET
- AREAS OF FROST / ICE
- CHAINS REQUIRED ON TOWING VEHICLES
- FOG
- REDUCED VISIBILITY/BLOWING AND DRIFTING
- SNOWING
- WATCH FOR FALLEN ROCK

https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/map/mtmap_frame.html

No Forecast

IcyRoad help!

1. IcyRoad3

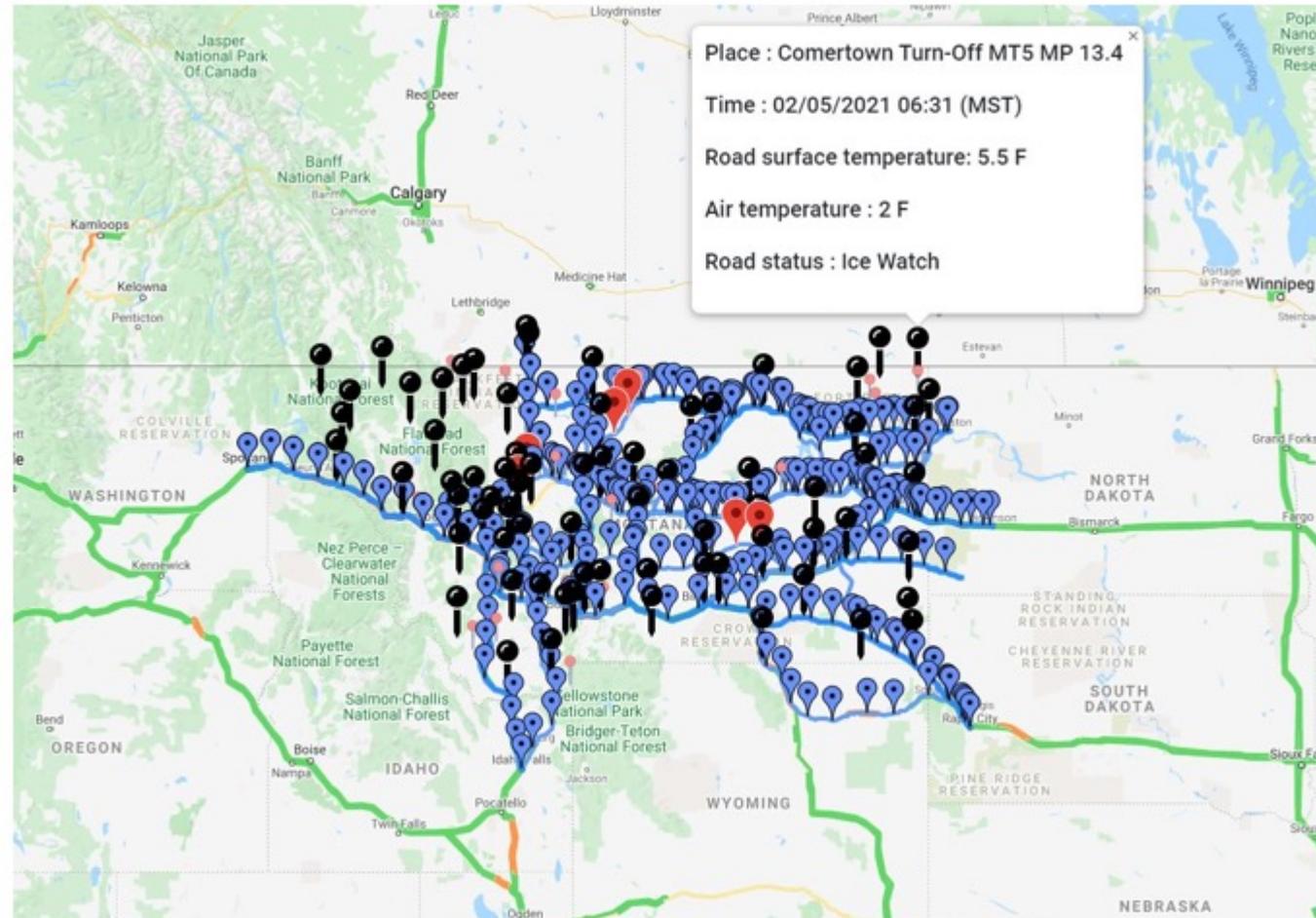
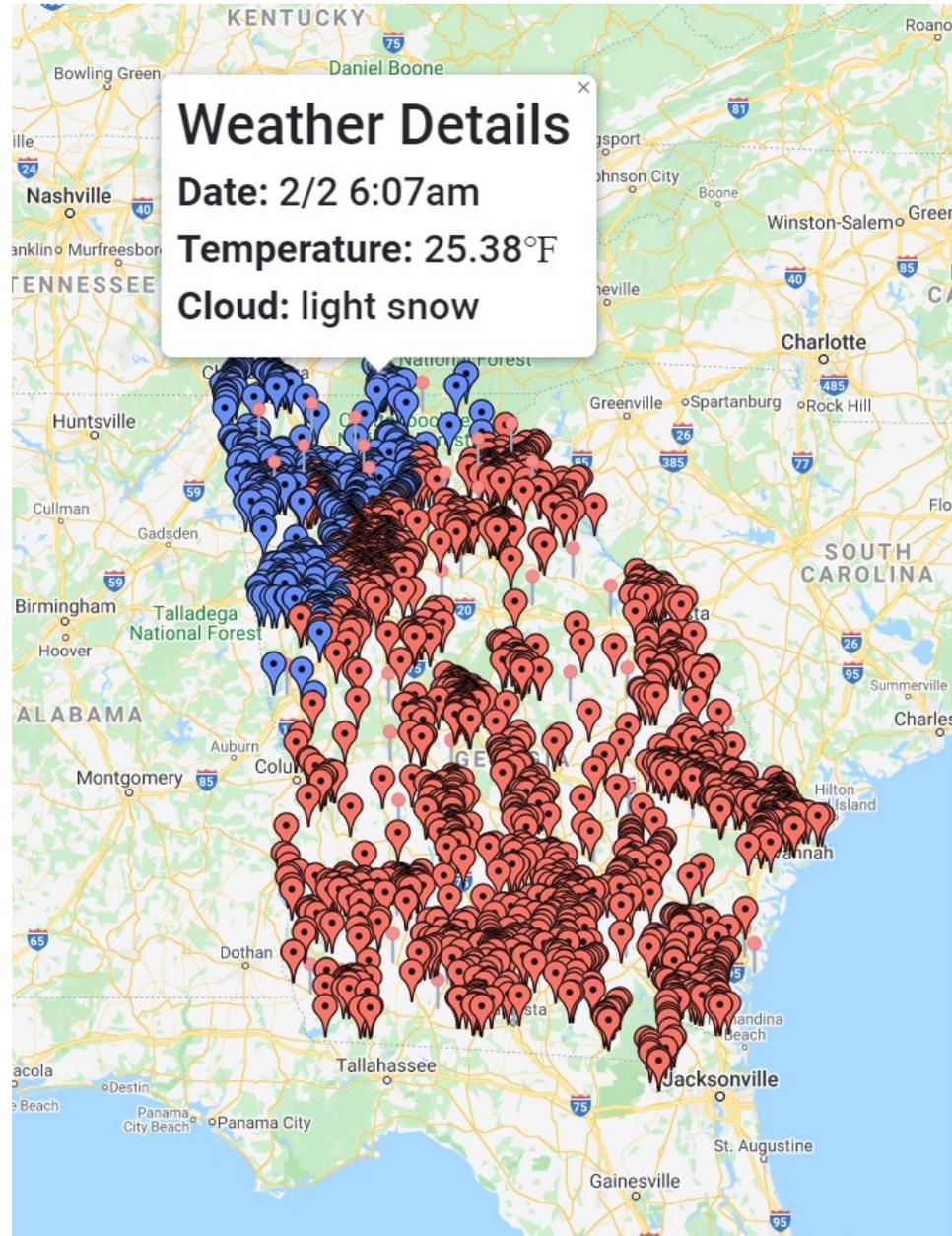
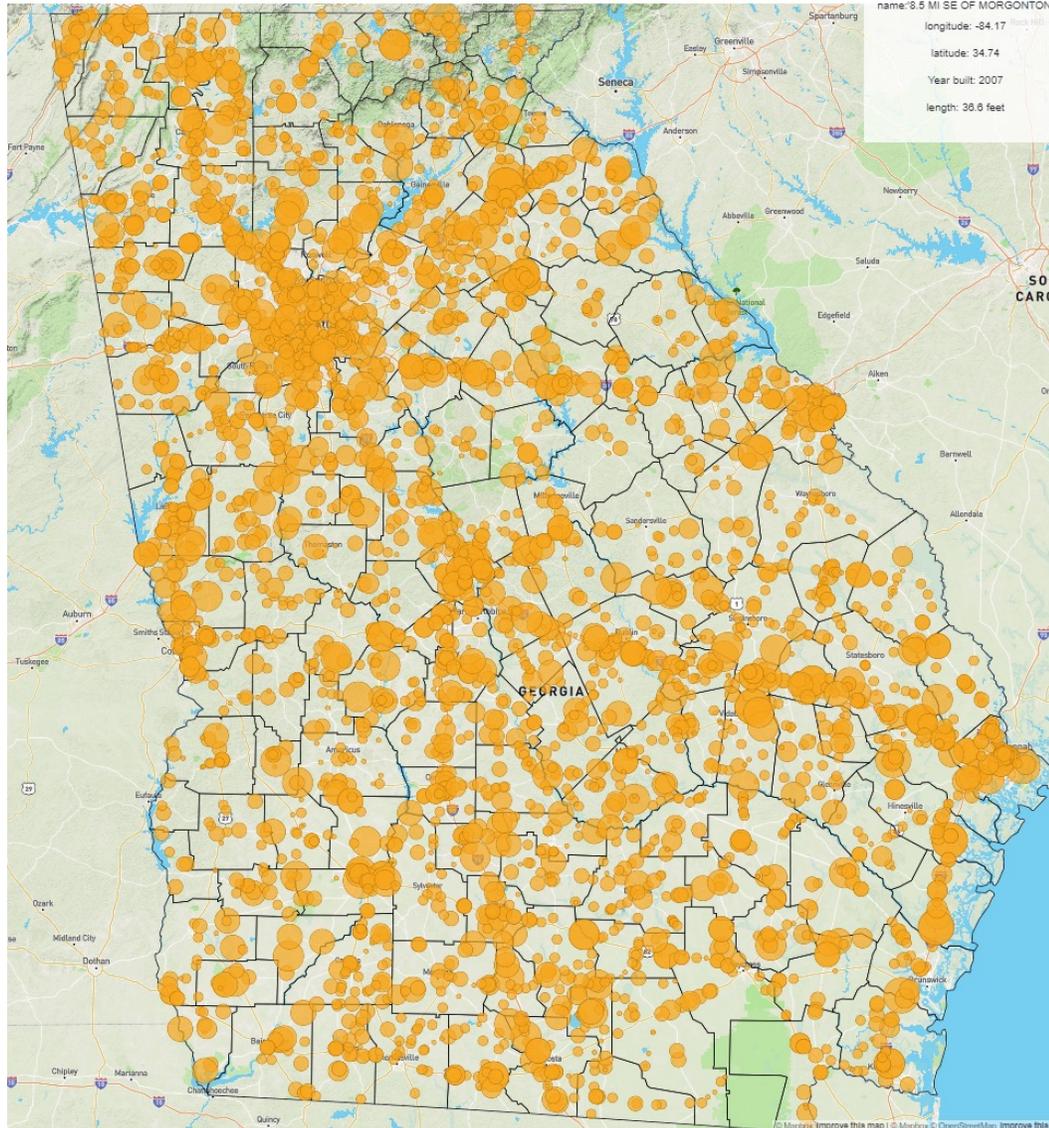


Figure 19. Sample of IcyRoad3 for state Montana highway ice status forecast for February 5, 2021. The blue marker is icy, the red marker is no ice, the black marker is RWIS sites location. Clicking RWIS sites shows observations. The small, pink pins are weather station locations and observations.

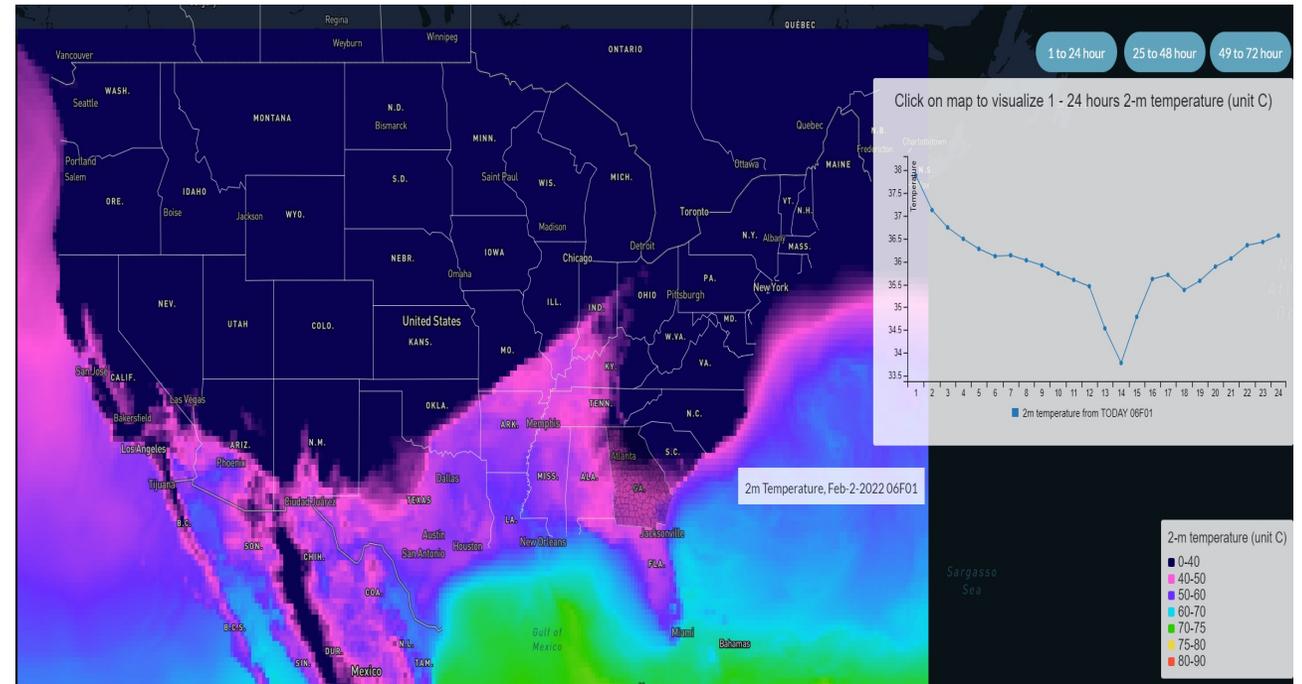
2. IcyBridge



3. Localized weather information – current and 8-day forecast based on weather forecasting model

- Provide localized weather forecast
- Include
 - 2-meter air temperature
 - wind speed and direction
 - Precipitation
 - Soil moisture
 - Cloud cover
 - Relative humidity
 - more...

. At hourly, for **10-day lead time**



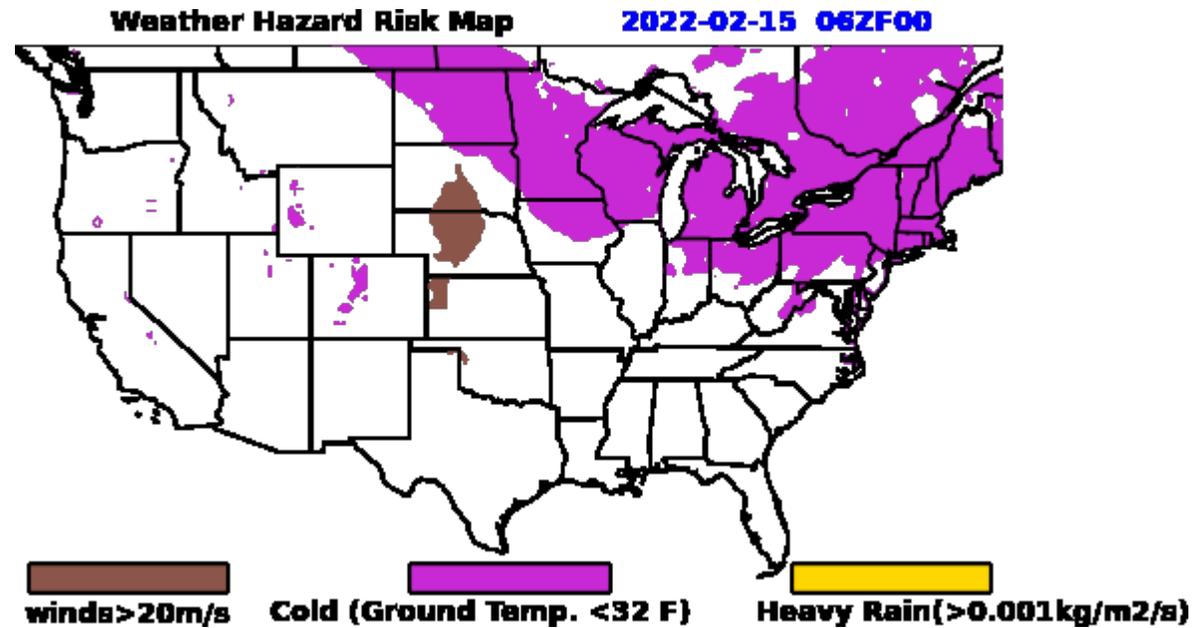
Hourly Temperature forecast for Vancouver, 2/2/2022

<https://sg-weather.com/mapboxTemperatureMinshapeWithTimeSeries> - for 2-meter surface air temperature

<https://sg-weather.com/mapboxRainMinshapeWithTimeSeries> - for rainfall

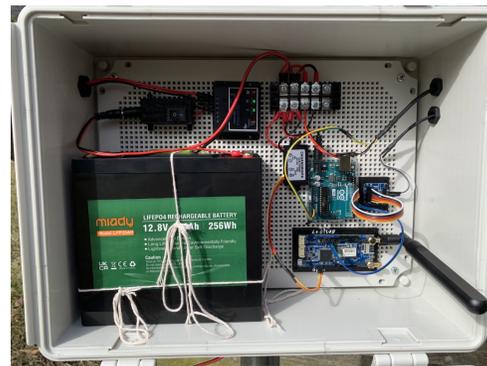
4. Hazard

- <https://sg-weather.com/weatherforecast>



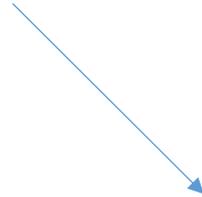
Weather Service for Local Farm

5. **Sensor** of pavement **temperature**, **air temperature**, **relative humidity** and **wind** – based on Internet-of-Things automated collect, transmit, and display data on web-server for more locations



6. NWS Montana Alert

Automatically receive alert issued by NWS for Montana



Example:

Sign up for our GA Alerts!

Email:

Sign Up

Special Weather Statement



info@sg-weather.com

Sun 2/13/2022 9:09 AM

To: You; boyanliuu@gmail.com; edmund.li427@gmail.com; mj1n1@umd.edu; boyanliuu@gmail.com; boyanliuu1@gmail.com + 6 others



Special Weather Statement

This is an automated message. Please do not reply to this email.

...HIGH FIRE DANGER CONDITIONS SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING FOR NORTH AND CENTRAL GEORGIA DUE TO LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITIES, DRY FUELS, AND WIND GUSTS... Relative Humidities of 25 percent or less can be expected for 4 or more hours Sunday afternoon into the evening. Winds will be Northwest at 10-15 mph with gusts of 18-25 mph with some isolated

Urgency: Expected

Severity: Minor

Certainty: Observed

Affected Areas: Baldwin; Banks; Barrow; Bartow; Bibb; Bleckley; Butts; Carroll; Catoosa; Chattahoochee; Chattooga; Cherokee; Clarke; Clayton; Cobb; Coweta; Crawford; Crisp; Dade; Dawson; DeKalb; Dodge; Dooly; Douglas; Emanuel; Fannin; Fayette; Floyd; Forsyth; Gilmer; Glascock; Gordon; Greene; Gwinnett; Hall; Hancock; Haralson; Harris; Heard; Henry; Houston; Jackson; Jasper; Jefferson; Johnson; Jones; Lamar; Laurens; Lumpkin; Macon; Madison; Marion; Meriwether; Monroe; Montgomery; Morgan; Murray; Muscogee; Newton; North Fulton; Oconee; Oglethorpe; Paulding; Peach; Pickens; Pike; Polk; Pulaski; Putnam; Rockdale; Schley; South Fulton; Spalding; Stewart; Sumter; Talbot; Taliaferro; Taylor; Telfair; Toombs; Towns; Treutlen; Troup; Twiggs; Union; Upson; Walker; Walton; Warren; Washington; Webster; Wheeler; White; Whitfield; Wilcox; Wilkes; Wilkinson

For the full report click this link : <https://alerts.weather.gov/cap/wwacapget.php?x=GA1263E29F1C14.SpecialWeatherStatement.1263E2AC6090GA.FFCSPPFFC.0e6bf2901c99e66c1cd986deea012cd2>

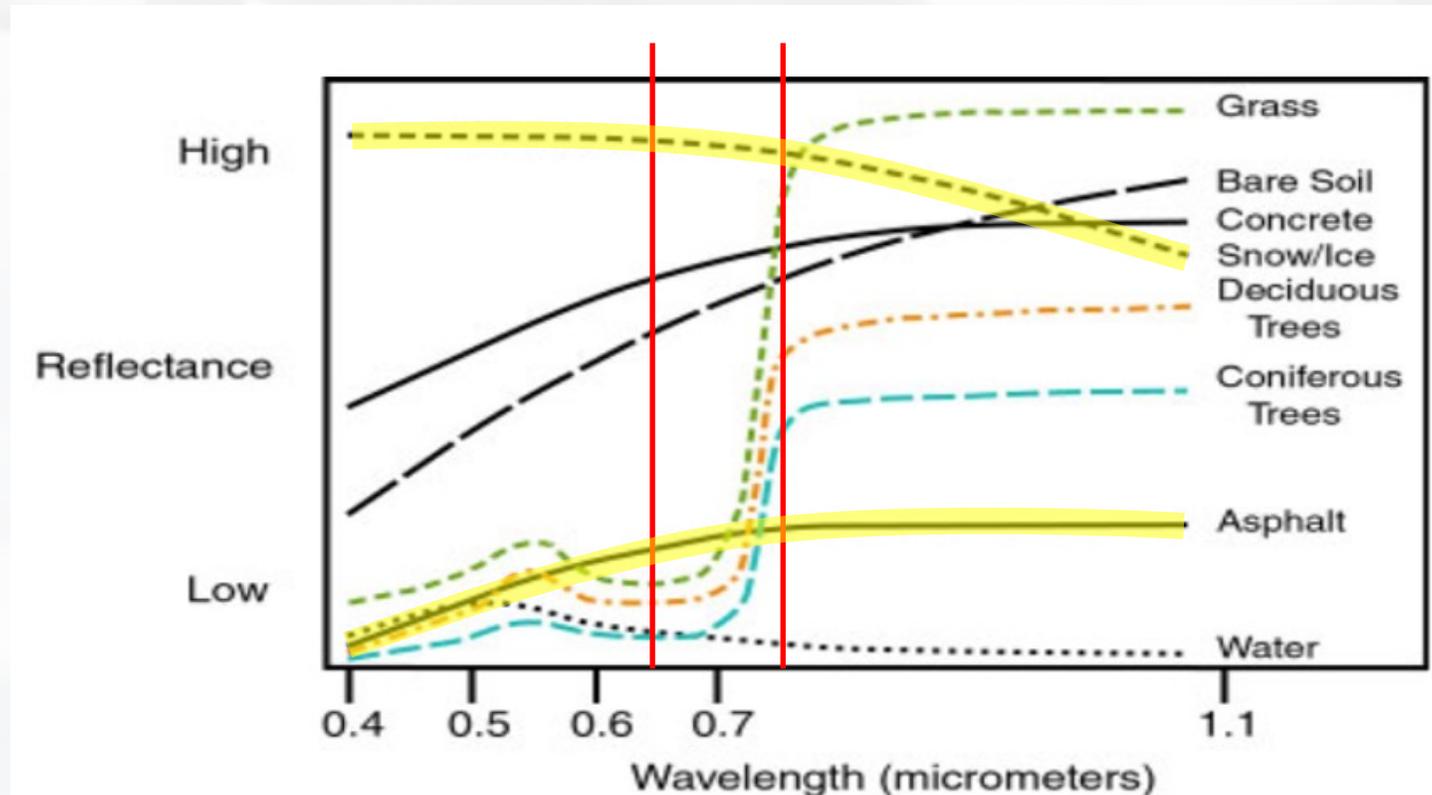
x=GA1263E29F1C14.SpecialWeatherStatement.1263E2AC6090GA.FFCSPPFFC.0e6bf2901c99e66c1cd986deea012cd2

Task 2 Validation of the Ice Formula

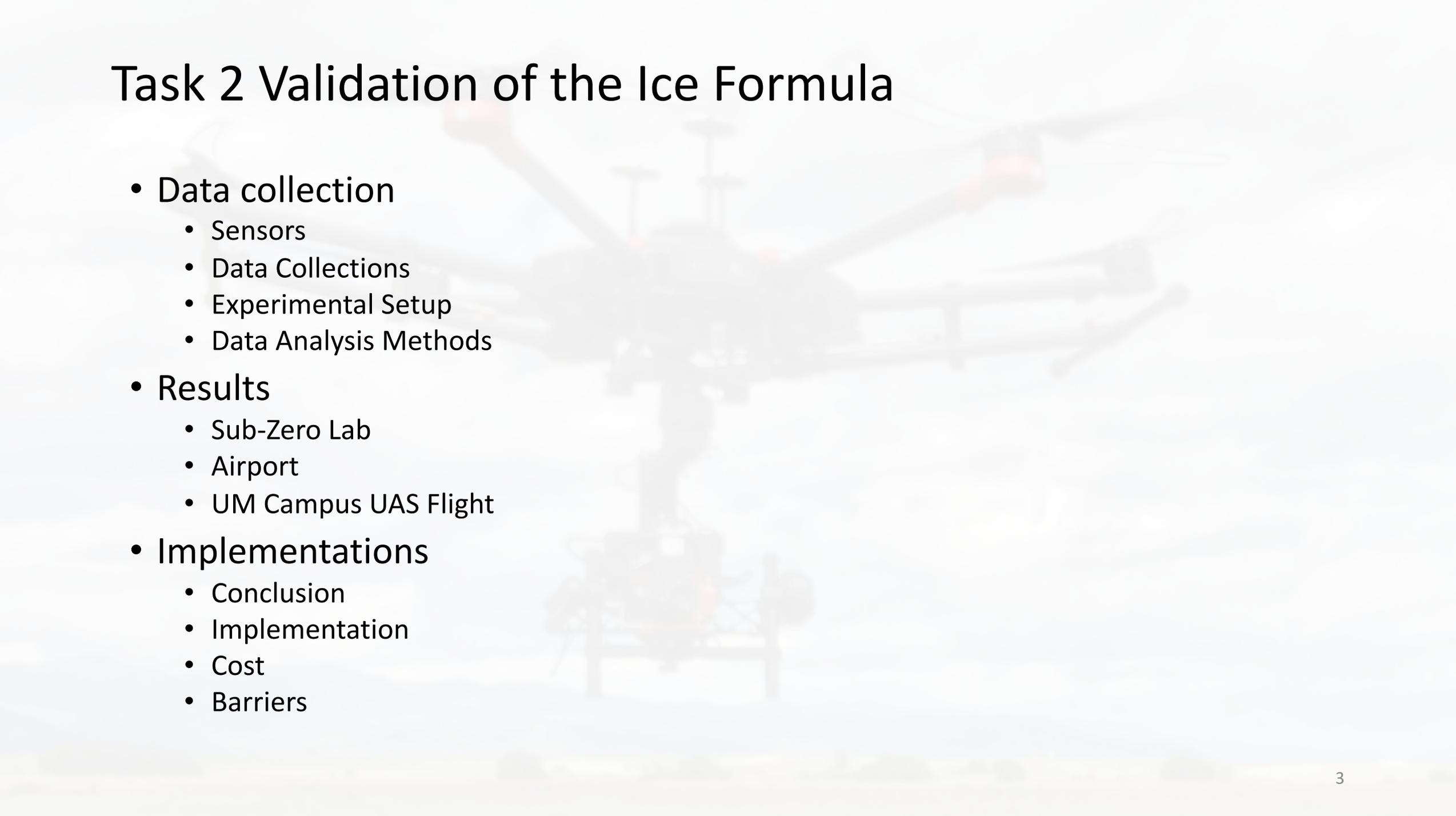
- 1st time that an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)-based hyperspectral sensor will be used for road ice detection.
- High-risk drone-based remote sensing technology.
- Challenge to distinguish snow, ice, dry and wet roads with remote sensor.

Task 2 Validation of the Ice Formula

- Road Ice Index $\theta = (NIR-RED)/(NIR+RED)$



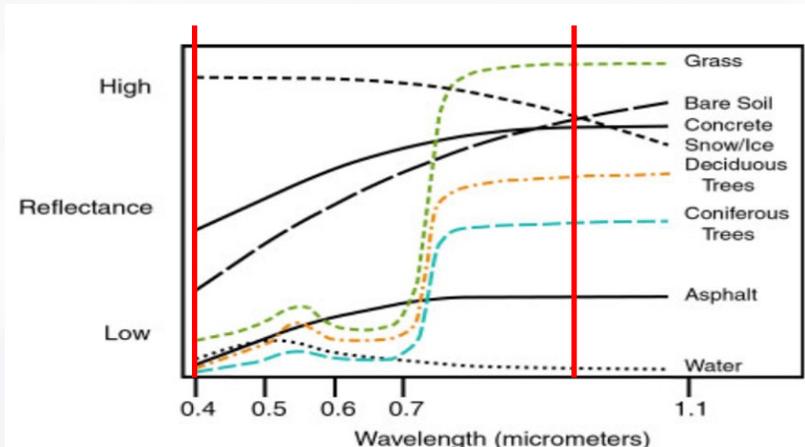
Task 2 Validation of the Ice Formula



- Data collection
 - Sensors
 - Data Collections
 - Experimental Setup
 - Data Analysis Methods
- Results
 - Sub-Zero Lab
 - Airport
 - UM Campus UAS Flight
- Implementations
 - Conclusion
 - Implementation
 - Cost
 - Barriers

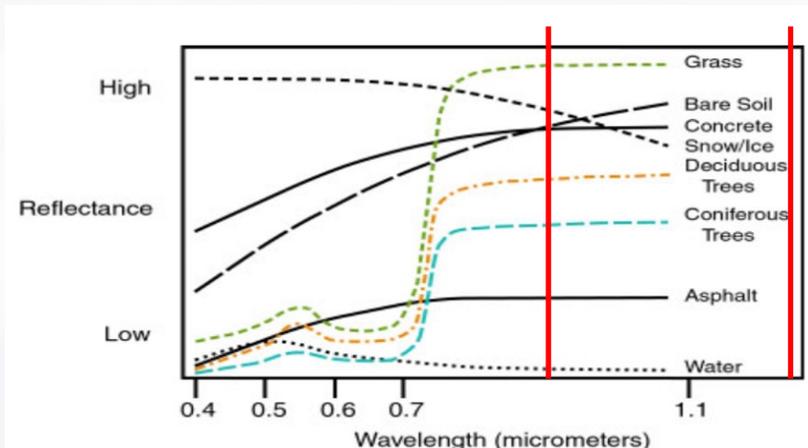
Sensor

- Pika L
 - 400-1000 nm
 - 2.1 nm band
 - 281 channels
 - 1.55 kg (3.41 lbs.)



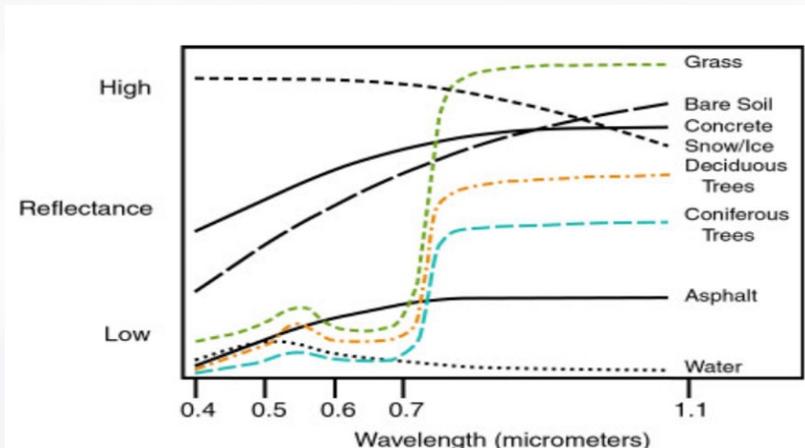
Sensor

- Pika NIR-320
 - 900-1700 nm
 - 4.9 nm band
 - 164 channels
 - 4.31 kg (9.50 lbs.)

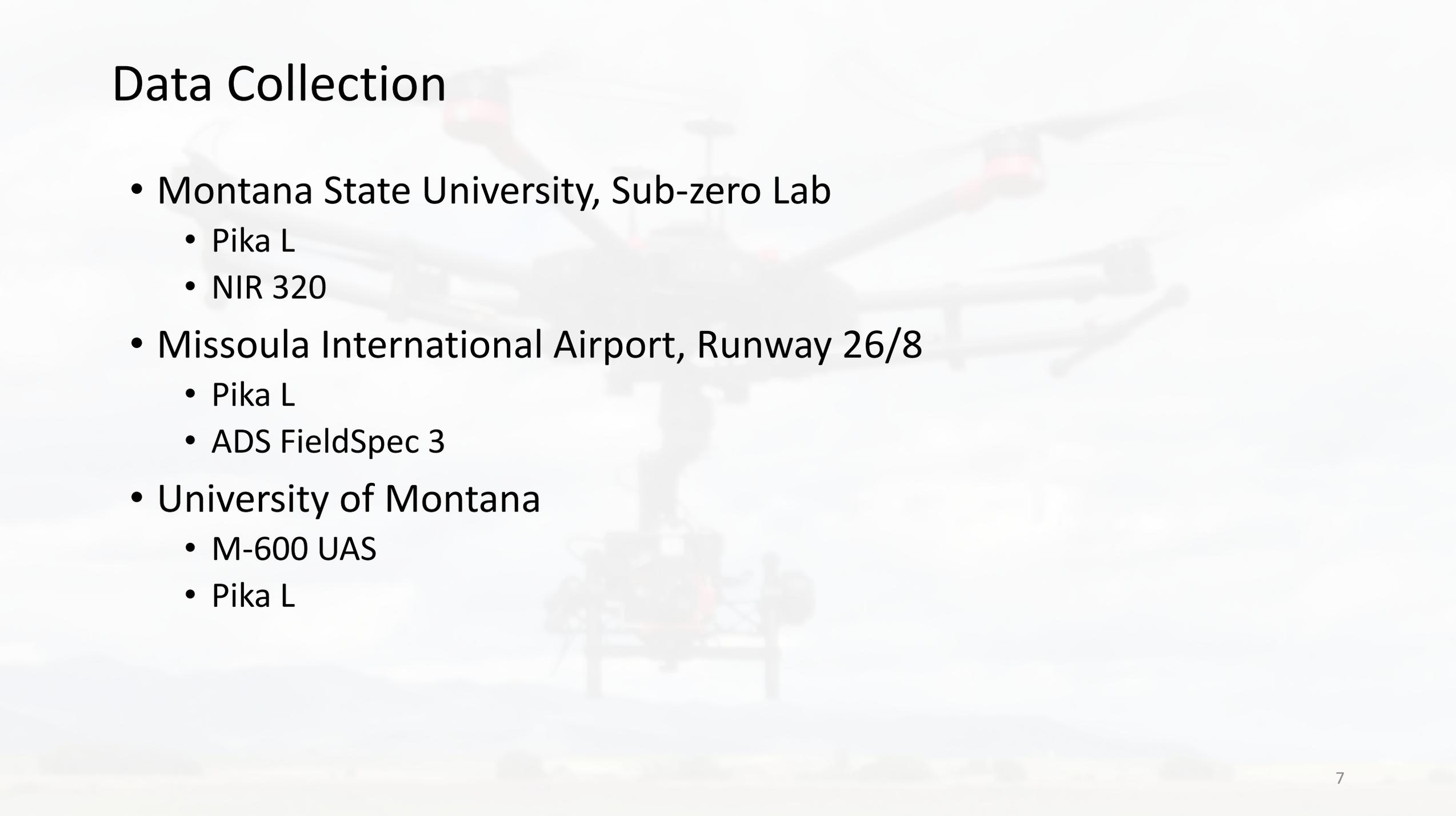


Sensor

- ADS FieldSpec 3
 - 350-2500 nm
 - 2nm band
 - 2151channels
 - 5.44 kg (11.99 lbs.)
 - without computer



Data Collection



- Montana State University, Sub-zero Lab
 - Pika L
 - NIR 320
- Missoula International Airport, Runway 26/8
 - Pika L
 - ADS FieldSpec 3
- University of Montana
 - M-600 UAS
 - Pika L

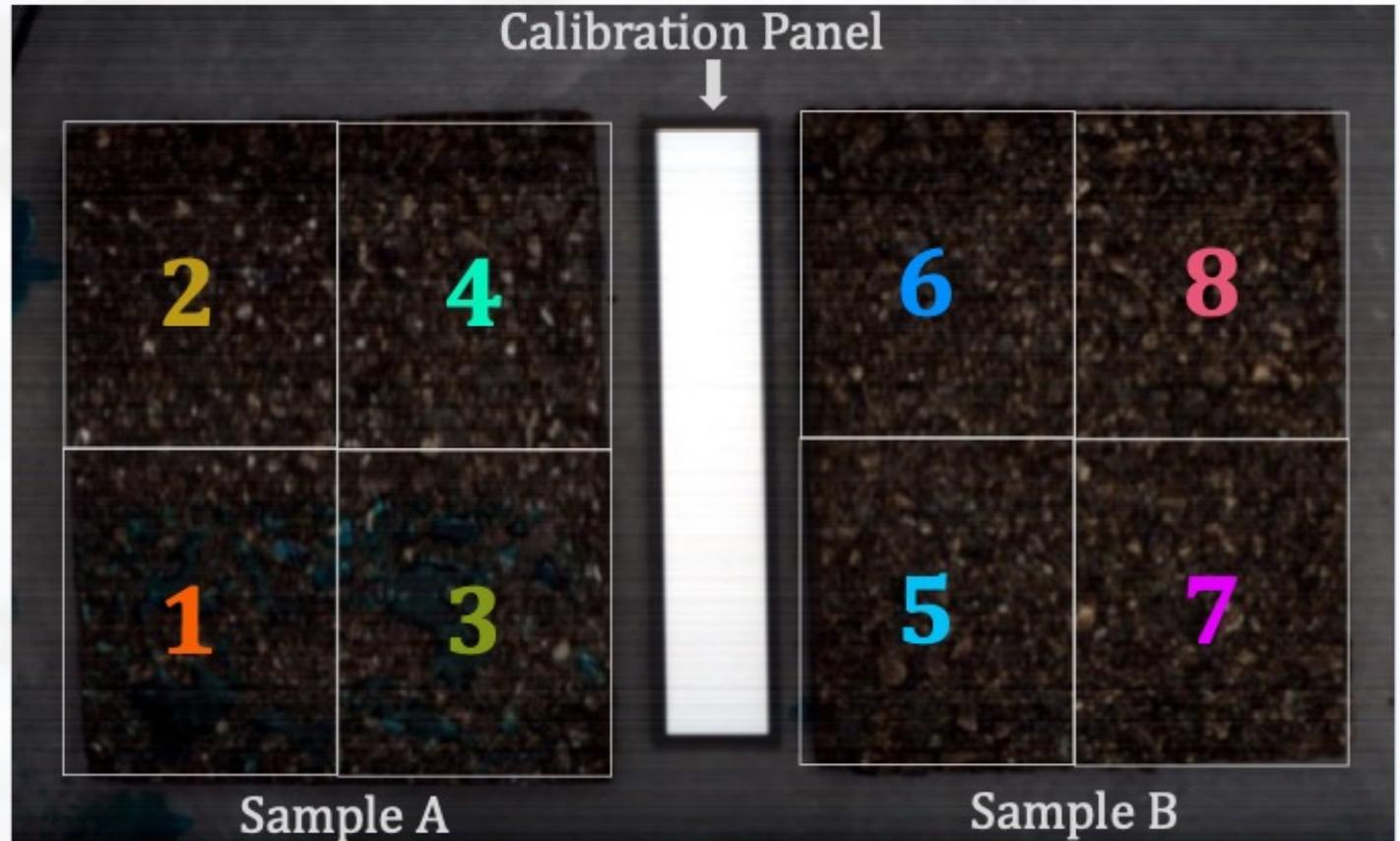
Experimental Setup

- Sub-Zero Lab
 - -4.4°C up to 4.4°C
 - 2° increments
 - Pika L
 - NIR 320



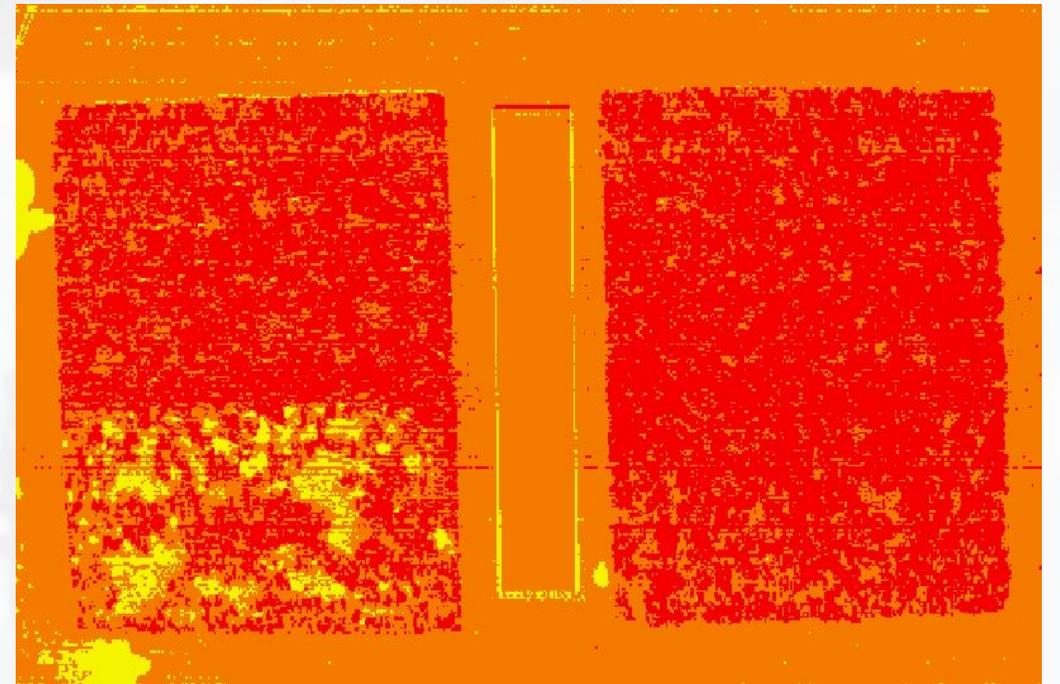
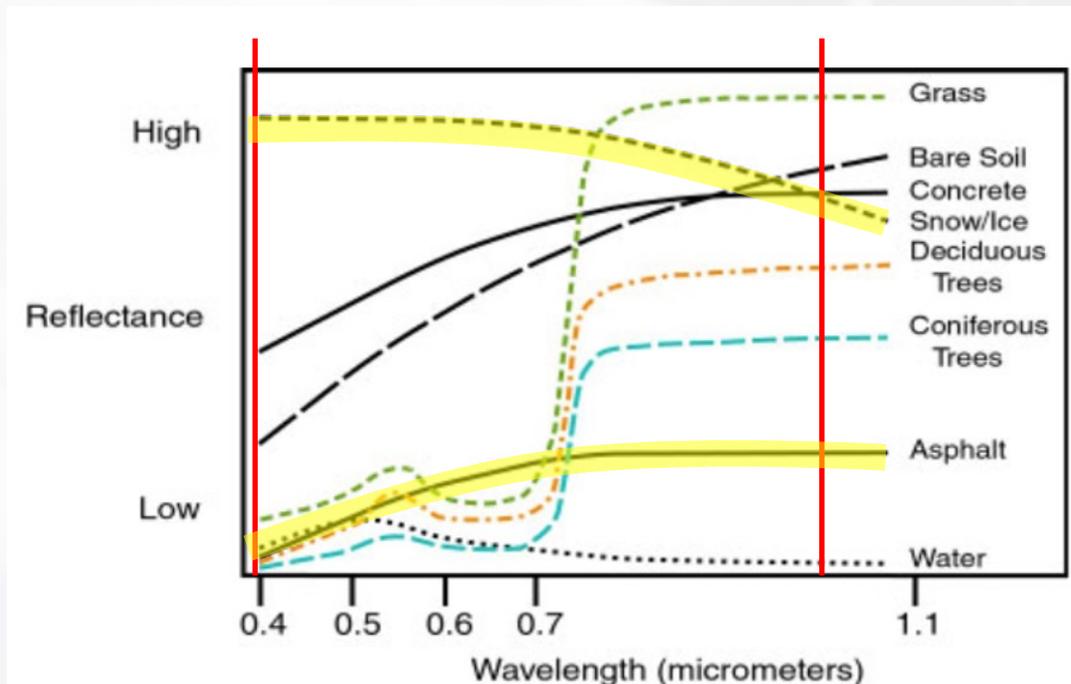
Experimental Setup

- Sub-Zero Lab
 - Sample Preparation
 - Numbering is for reference only



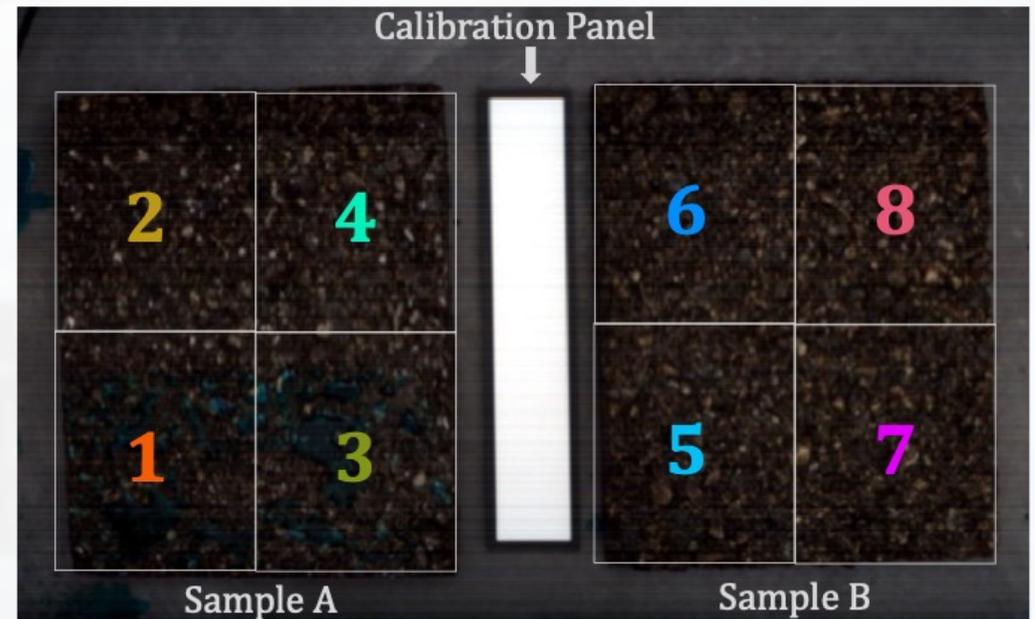
Data Analysis Methods

- Road Ice Index $\theta = (1025\text{nm} - 389\text{nm}) / (1025\text{nm} + 389\text{nm})$



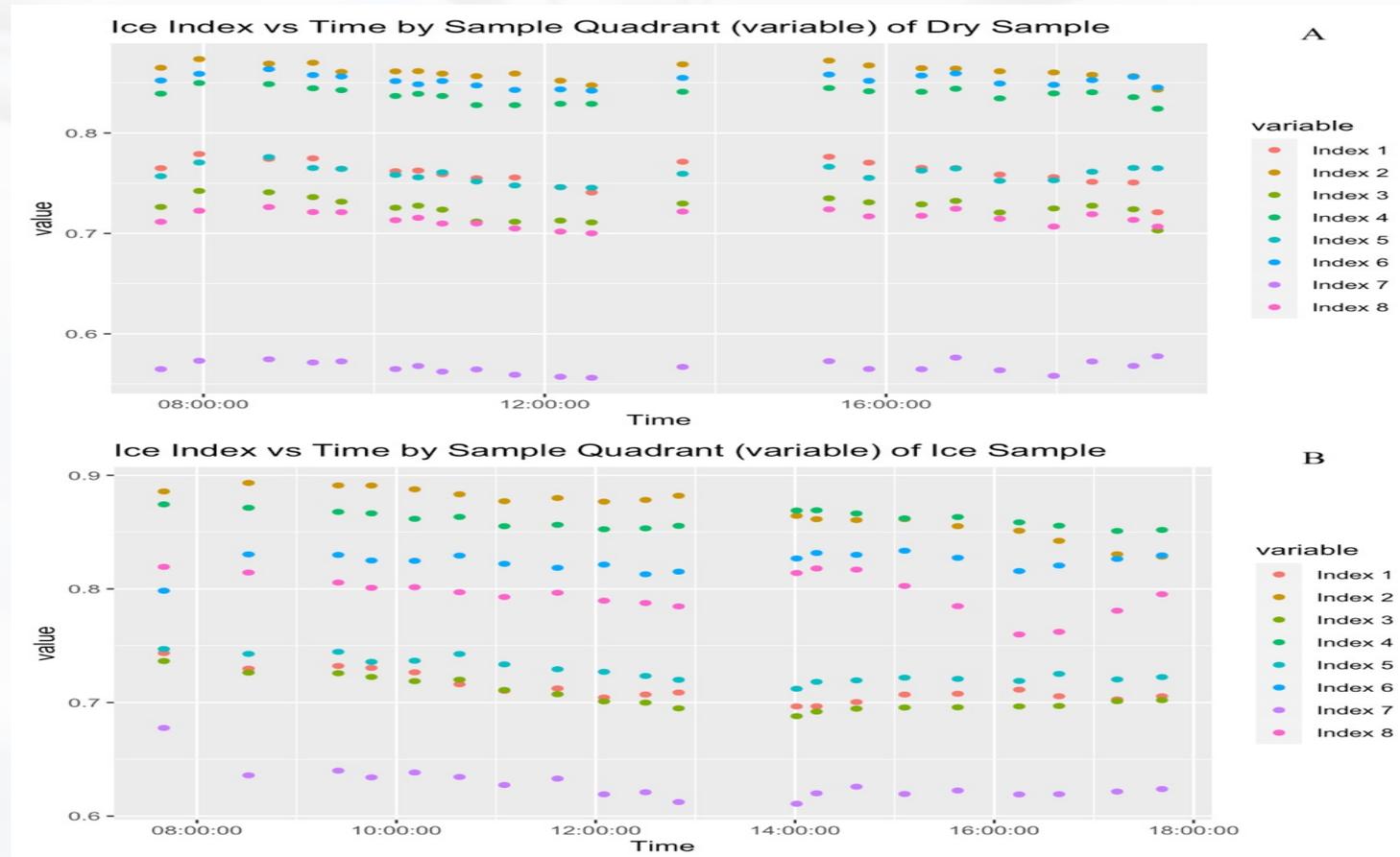
Data Analysis Methods

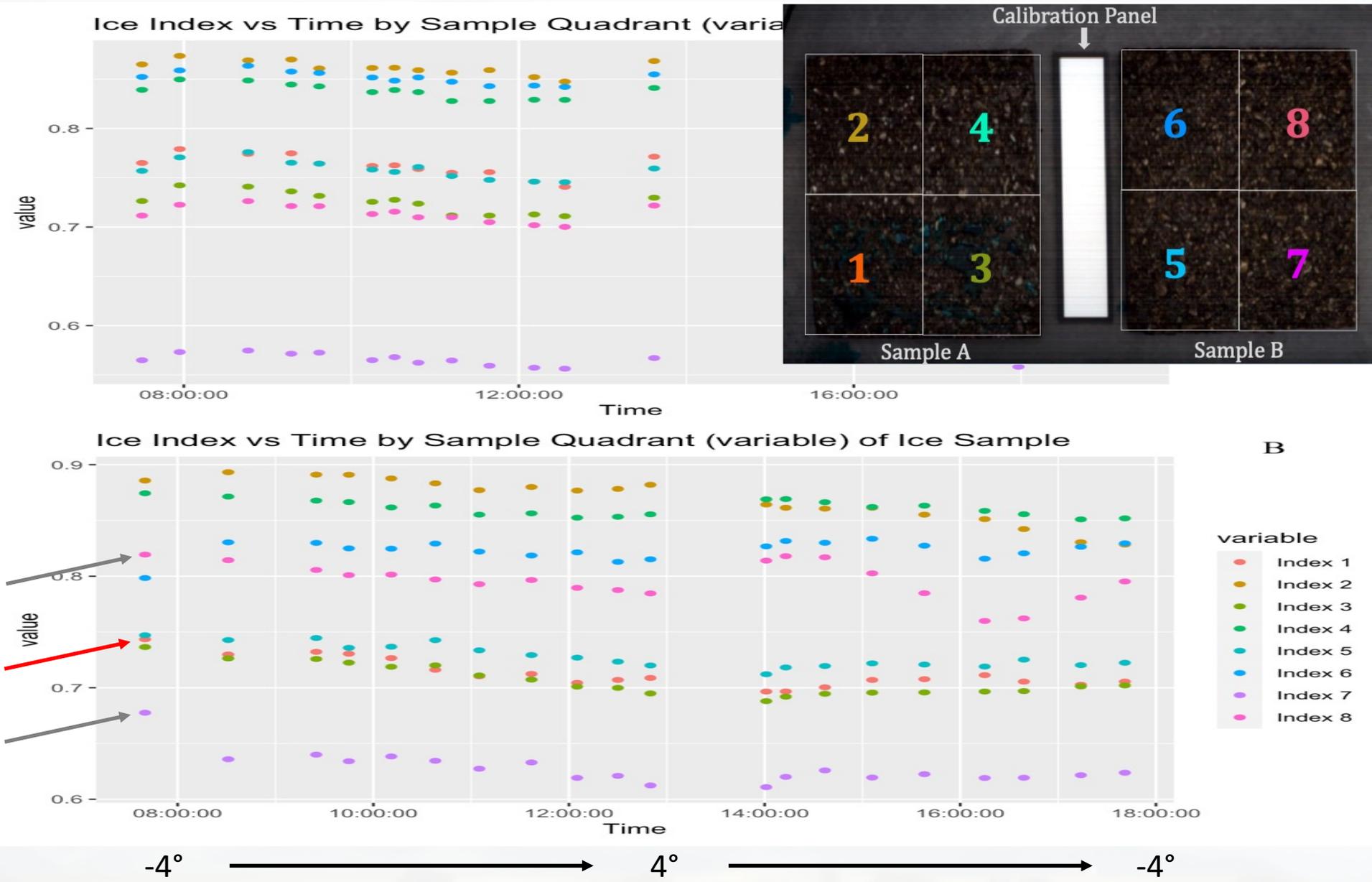
- Principal Component Analysis
 - Hyperspectral
- Python
 - https://github.com/jfowler9/MDT_Icy_Roads.git
 - Data cube
 - Pulls specific wavelengths
 - Remove calibration panel
 - Runs index and averages by quadrant



Results

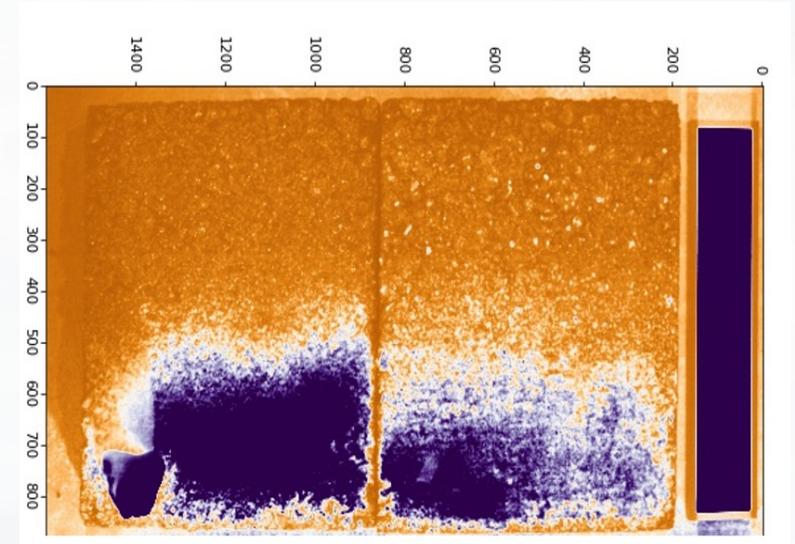
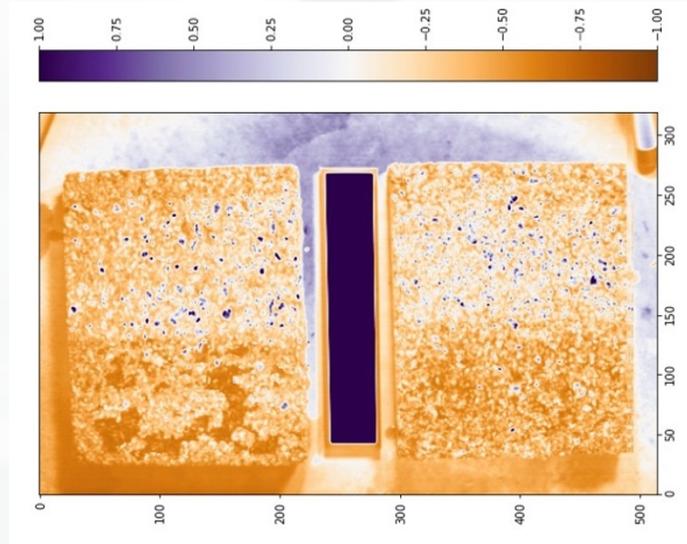
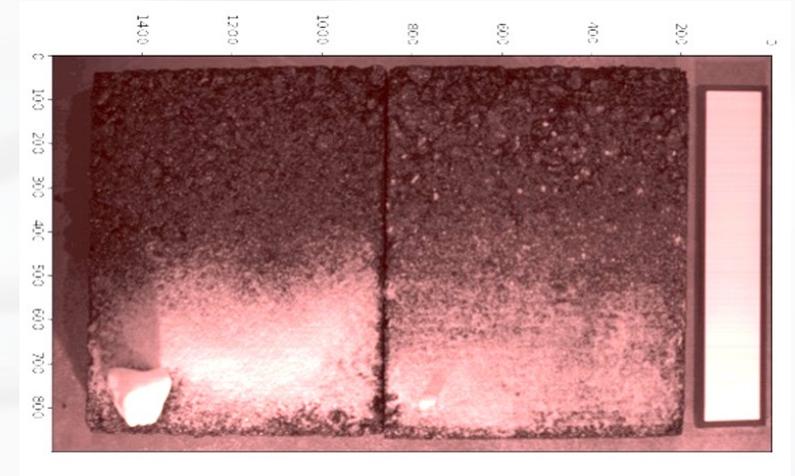
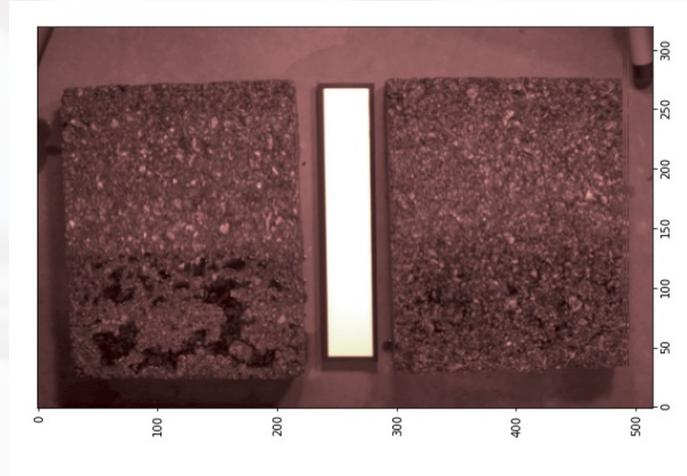
- Road Ice Index $\theta = (\text{NIR}-\text{RED})/(\text{NIR}+\text{RED})$





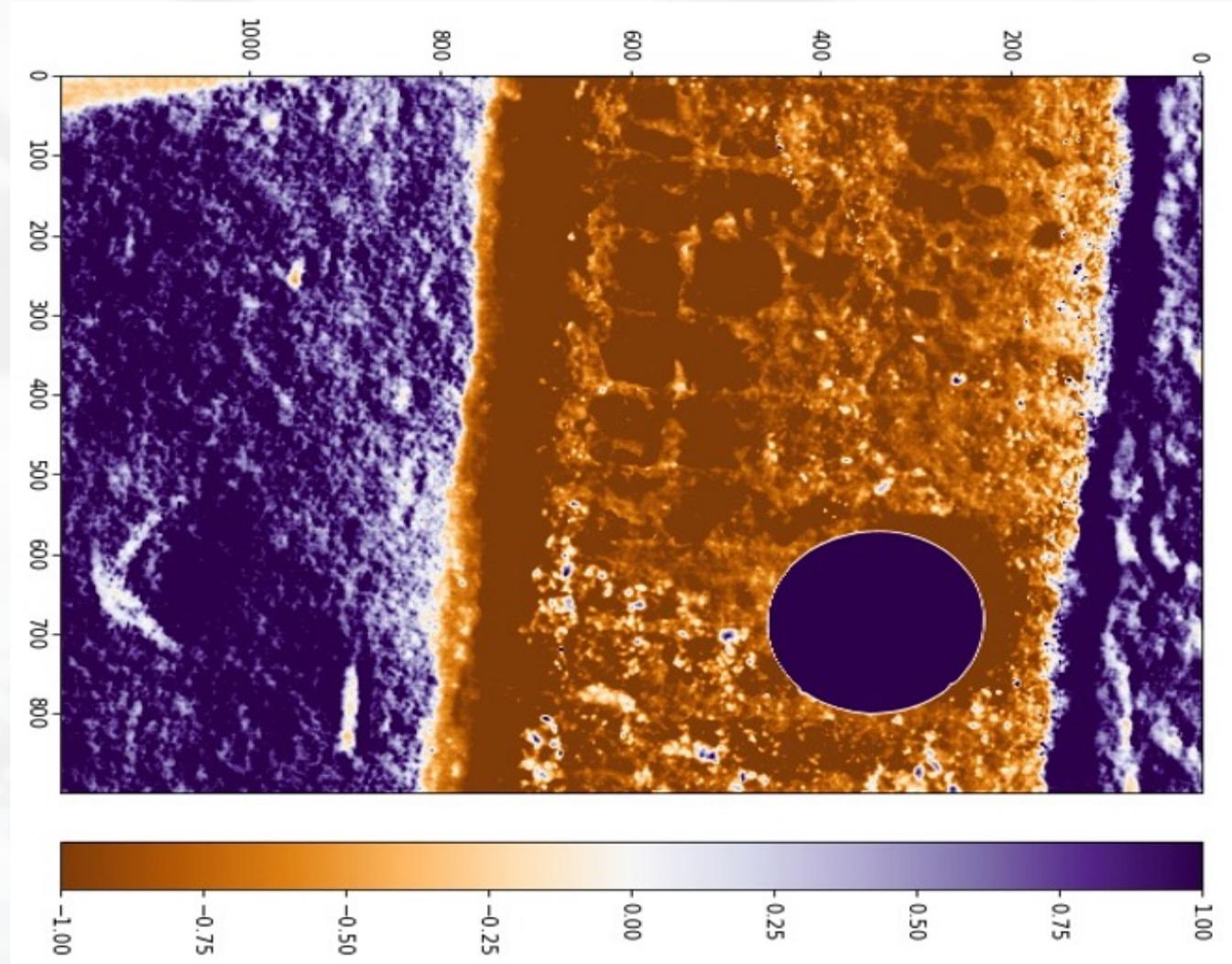
Results

- Pika L
 - 400-1000 nm
- PCA
 - Resonon
 - ArcGIS
 - Python



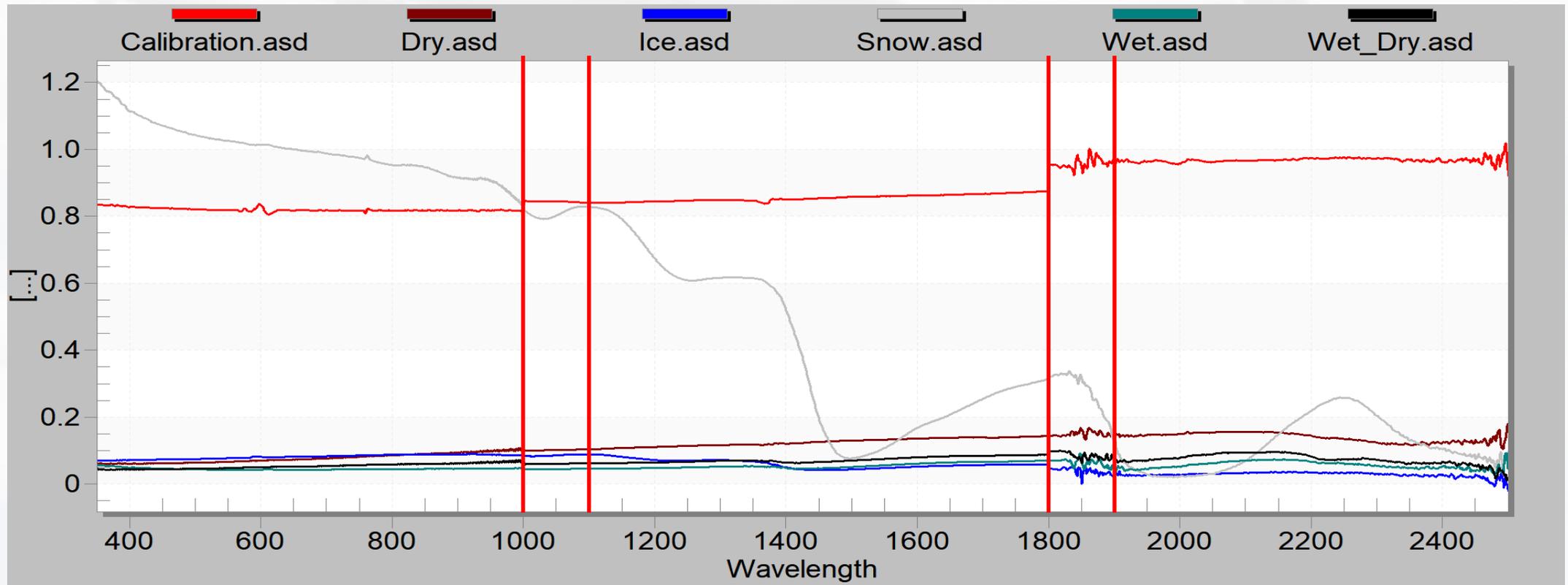
Airport

- Pika L
- PCA



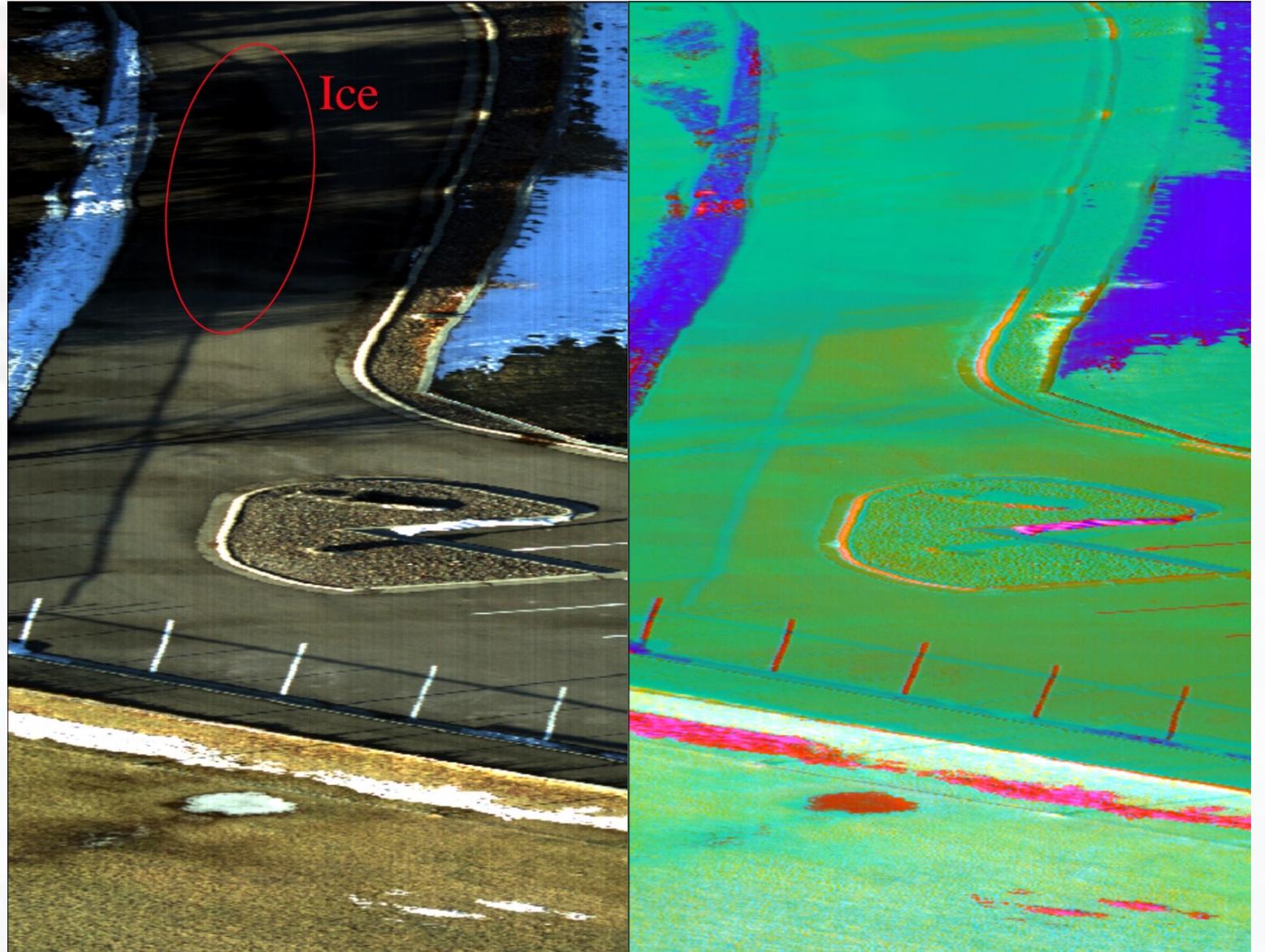
Airport

- ASD Spectrometer
 - 350-2500 nm



UM UAS Flight

- Pika L
 - 400-1000 nm
- No visible ice



Conclusion

- Road Ice Index $\theta = (NIR-RED)/(NIR+RED)$ is not definitive in this study
- Pika L is capable of differentiating
 - Dry asphalt/water/snow/ice
 - PCA/Supervised classification/Road Ice Index*
- ADS Spectrometer shows some promise in specific bands
 - 1,000 -1,100 nm
 - 1,800 – 1,900 nm

Implementation



- Equipment
 - Hyperspectral Sensor
 - Platform
 - Computing/Storage
- Personnel
- Training/Certification
 - Program Specific
 - FAA Licensing

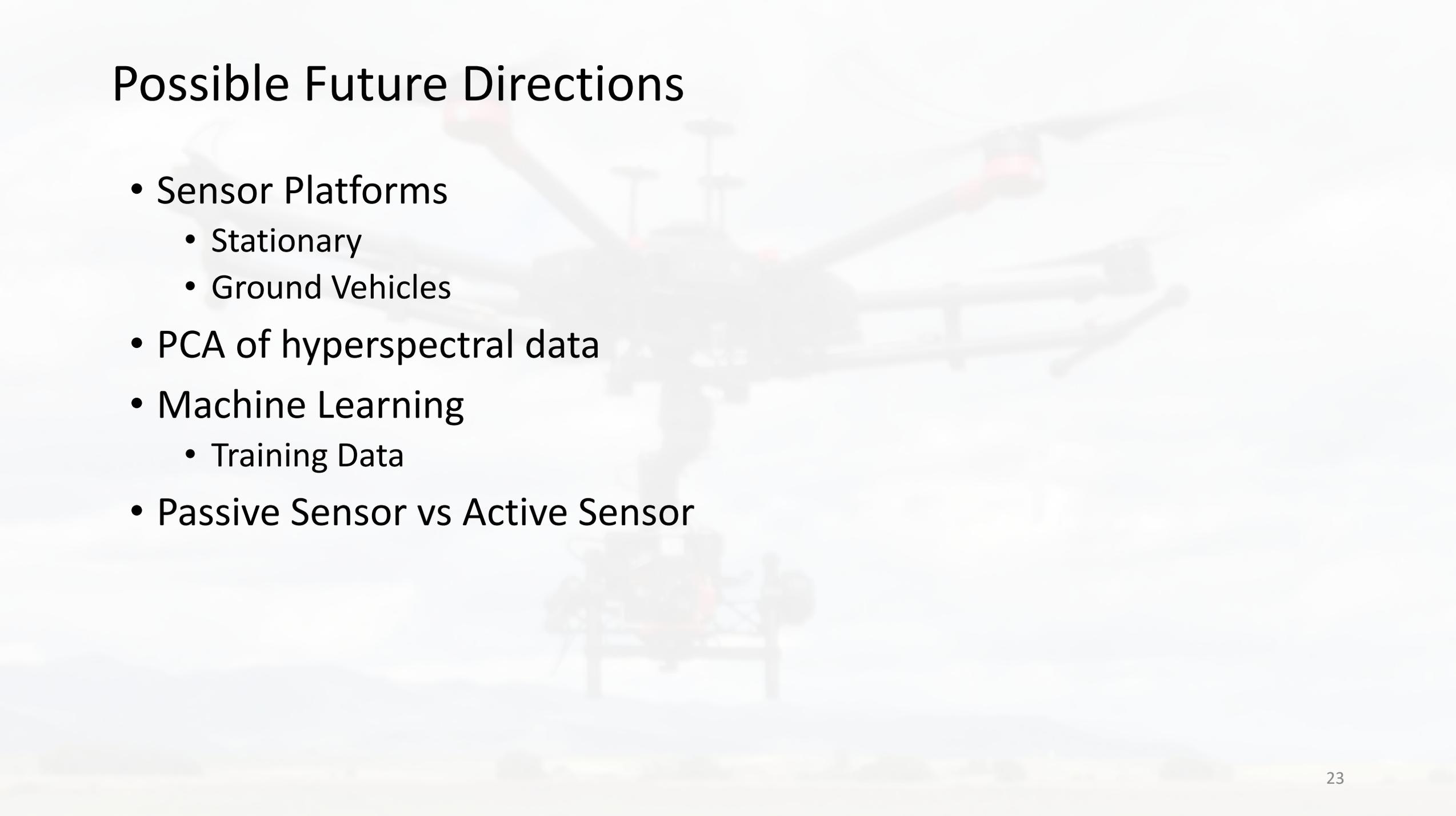
Cost

- Cost ~\$42,000 per unit
- Personnel
 - Training
 - Certification (Part 107)
- Liability
- FAA regulation/waivers
 - Flights over people and vehicles
 - BVLOS

Barriers to Implementation

- Cost per unit (\$42K)
- High risk of UAS failure due to propeller icing
- Flight time
- Flight distance (line of sight)
- Data storage/processing/availability
- Work force
- FAA Regulations

Possible Future Directions



- Sensor Platforms
 - Stationary
 - Ground Vehicles
- PCA of hyperspectral data
- Machine Learning
 - Training Data
- Passive Sensor vs Active Sensor



Questions?